

KS5 Criminology – Recommended Reading

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| **Non-fiction: academic, memoir, journalistic and historical**  |
| Book Title | Author | Description |
| Criminology | Tim Newburn | The best introductory academic text.  |
| The Prison Doctor | Amanda Brown | Stories of patients and cases, written by a doctor who treated patients inside some of Britain’s biggest prisons.  |
| Orange is the New Black | Piper Kerman | The book that inspired the Netflix show. An experience of being inside a US women’s prison  |
| The Wolf of Wall Street | Jordan Belfort | The book that inspired the film starring Leonardo Di Caprio; a notorious white-collar criminal’s memoir.  |
| My Dark Places | James Ellroy | The crime writer tells the story of his mother’s unsolved murder and the impact it had upon him.  |
| A Few Kind Words and a Loaded Gun | Noel ‘Razor’ Smith | Smith, a writer and former criminal, taught himself to read and write while serving a life sentence.  |
| Manhunt | Colin Sutton | Sutton was the police investigator in charge of the hunt for the man who murdered Millie Dowler.  |
| In Cold Blood | Truman Capote  | A book that revolutionised the ‘true crime’ genre.  |
| 10 Rillington Place | Ludovic Kennedy | John Christie’s murders and the miscarriage of justice that led to the conviction of Timothy Evans.  |
| The Suspicions of Mr Whicher  | Kate Summerscale | A notorious Victorian murder and the investigation which followed it  |
| A Very British Murder | Lucy Worsley | A history of murder in Britain, featuring notorious crimes, and changes to investigation methods.  |
| Columbine | Dave Cullen | The Columbine Killings, a notorious school shooting in the USA in 1999. |
| Homicide | David Simon | A reporter who followed the homicide squad in Baltimore, USA, for a year writes about his experience.  |
| Killers of the Flower Moon | David Grann | A story of murder in Oklahoma – racial tensions, profit, exploitation and investigation.  |
| Profession of Violence | John Pearson | A biography of the Kray Twins, notorious gang leaders from London’s East End.  |
| **Fiction: often great writing, but not always true to life!** |
| Book Title | Author | Description |
| Postmortem | Patricia Cornwell | Cornwell, a former medical officer, is credited with bringing forensic science into mainstream crime fiction. |
| The Mermaids Singing | Val McDermid | The first in a series which features Dr Tony Hill, a forensic psychologist, as the protagonist. Quite grisly.  |
| Knots and Crosses | Ian Rankin | The first in a series about Detective Inspector John Rebus, an Edinburgh police detective.  |
| Cover Her Face | PD James  | The first in a series to feature Detective Inspector Adam Dalgliesh. A great murder investigation story.  |
| The Murder of Roger Ackroyd | Agatha Christie | Voted the best ever crime novel by a poll of 600 crime writers in 2013. Features Belgian detective Poirot.  |