

Unit 2 Topic 3.2 Page 126

Activity: Research Criticisms of Lombroso

Learning objective

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- evaluate Lombroso's biological theory of criminality.

A. Using the link below, answer the questions that follow.

http://criminology.wikia.com/wiki/Biological_Theory

The first six paragraphs of the article give information about Lombroso and the development of his biological theory of criminality. Answer Questions 1-6 below on Lombroso's work.

1. In paragraph 1: what was Lombroso trying to dispute in his work?
2. In paragraph 2; what did Lombroso seek to discover during his time in the army?
3. Briefly outline Lombroso's work with skulls from paragraph 3.
4. In paragraph 4: what features did Lombroso investigate and what did he find?
5. In paragraph 5: what further aspect of criminality did Lombroso investigate?
6. Briefly outline the finding of the study in which Lombroso showed photographs to girls. What was Lombroso's conclusion from this and his other studies?

Paragraphs 7-9 contain criticisms of Lombroso's work.

7. What research did Charles Goring carry out?
8. What did Goring find?
9. How do Goring's findings criticise Lombroso?
10. What was the problem of a biological theory of crime for jurors?
11. Why does Lombroso's research still have a place in the history of criminology?

B. Using your answers to 1-11 above and pages 125-126 of your textbook, briefly summarise the problems of using Lombroso's work to explain criminality.