#

Criminal Law

# Comprehensive Case Report Topic and Outline paper

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1. Introduction
2. **Background:** The accused, Ted Bundy, is facing the death penalty for murder. The client has been linked to the kidnapping and murder of two women and a minor and is awaiting sentencing.
3. **Purpose**: This report presents a biopsychosocial analysis and examination of my client in a bid to explain what lead to the individual’s indulgence in the heinous criminal acts. The biopsychosocial investigation examines the accused with regard to his mental health among other issues and the social context.
4. **Thesis:** Criminal acts and characters should be examined within their social and environmental context, biological bearings and with regard to their emotional development throughout the individual’s life to understand why they indulged in the criminal acts and what fuelled their actions.
5. As a child, the accused lacked emotional support from both his parents and was subjected to emotional detachment and poor interpersonal relationships which contributed to the formation of his personality
6. Ted Bundy never saw his father and his teenage mother said that she was his sister and the grandparents their parents. Even though the accused was with her mother during his childhood, he failed to receive emotional support during the early stages of childhood.
7. This emotional detachment can be followed by the deep resentments he felt on learning on his illegitimacy and his strained relationship with his step-father. Berscheid, Collins, & Reis, (2017) note that lack of coordinated parental or guardian support as well as the failure to have stable and secure relationships with caregivers to children increases the risk of developing a wide range of emotional, behavioral and social problems.
8. In research by Raine (1993), it was found that teenage boys who have experienced attachment difficulties in childhood are three times likely to commit violent criminal acts. These issues contribute substantially to antisocial personality disorder (APSD) to which the traits of the accused fall within.
9. The traits of the accused such as being a pathological liar and a disregard for right and wrong, and the use of charm and wit to manipulate others for personal gain or pleasure are well documented thereby indicating high possibility that the hampered emotional development of the accused played a key role in developing a psychological disorder that might have led to the actions of the accused (Few et al., 2015).
10. The environment and personal struggles the accused grew up with also shaped his behavioral and social interactions and perspectives.
11. While staying with his grandparents, Shapiro (2005) reports that Ted often observed the cruelty of his grandfather with animals such as dogs and cats. This suggests that from early life, Ted learned and observed violence, detachment and lack of remorse as acceptable.
12. The self-confessed accounts of watching pornography indicate that he was exposed to violent adult material at an early age to which he was addicted. Carlisle (2014) suggests that addiction to graphic material may lead to the individual to more and more consumption which eventually minimizes the gap between the fantasy and the addiction. The psychological expert examines Bundy’s life from a young age and notes that the addiction and experience influenced the criteria the accused used to determine right from wrong.
13. These struggles and experiences the accused had as a child and teenager in his environment and personal life contributed to his inability to form relationships or trust during childhood. Carbajal (2010) note that a combination of intense personal struggles such as addiction and strains in the environment supposed to help causes damage both psychologically and neurologically present in serial killers.
14. Besides the accused early childhood and teenage experiences, in his adulthood, Ted failed to have stable emotional relationships which further fueled his distortion of the reality and interactions that relate what’s wrong and what’s right.
15. Adulthood was also challenging to Ted Bundy as he failed relationship and was unable to have close relationships. After being dumped, Ted was subjected to rejection and frustration.
16. Whitman & Akutagawa (2004) examine the character of serial killers and identify feelings of rejection, anger, and powerlessness as some of the causes of violent crimes. However, the accused maneuvered the social scene by presenting a false social image and managed to return to school and graduate with a bachelor of psychology.
17. To a great extent, the events, experiences, and relationships of the accused have contributed to his indulgence in heinous criminal acts.
18. Conclusion
19. An analysis of Ted Bundy’s life and experiences with his social and environmental context, biological scope and with an understanding of his emotional development as a child, a teenager and an adult indicate that the individual’s ability to indulge in crime is highly influenced by his background and the personality he developed as a result of these biopsychosocial factors.
20. The accused indulgence in the heinous sexual crimes, kidnapping, and murder calls for retribution, deterrence, and incapacitation. However, the background of the accused, as well as the expert opinion, suggest the contribution of external factors such as lack of emotional attachments and supports which are biopsychosocial factors. Due to the contribution of the biopsychosocial factors, the accused should be exempted from the death penalty.

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