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Theories in Criminology

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Module 4 Activity 1 Discussion Question

List and discuss several of principles of Cesare Lombroso's Positivist school.

Key assumptions

1. Human behavior is determined and not a matter of free will.
2. Criminal are fundamentally different from noncriminals.
3. Social scientists can be objective in their work.
4. Crime is frequently caused by multiple factors.
5. Society is based on consensus, but not on a social contract.

Problems

1. Account for too much crime.
2. Ignore the process by which behaviors are made illegal.
3. Assume that most people agree about most things most of the time.
4. Believe that action is determined by causes independent of a person's free will.
5. Believe that social scientists will be objective in their work.