

Article Extended Response

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Name?

- Identify and explain what you consider to be a main idea of the text. Use specific reference for support.

5 MARKS

AND

- Explain how your main idea relates to the play Macbeth.

5 MARKS

I consider the main idea of this article is the idea that criminals are not specifically made through experiences or born, but are created from a mixture of both. Some criminals have been proven to come from broken homes before birth, which could include a mother drinking or abusing drugs while pregnant, and other criminals have been shaped by life experiences, such as witnessing people do bad acts as a child or peer activity. This article reads that people who have committed criminal acts have had "something done to them before they were born." It states that "A great number" of serial killers had mothers who abused, and as a result many had brain lesions. The article went on to say that many of the acts done by the criminals were done under the influence of alcohol or drugs, alcohol and drugs being an outside, pressuring, experience on these people's lives. The three main causes of crime, as said by the same researcher, are brain damage before or after birth, consumption of alcohol or drugs, an outside source, and improper developmental learning or experience (or lack of) one has growing up. Another study reveals that these can be applied across other trouble-makers including "juvenile delinquents, repeat-offender criminals, and aggressive psychopaths." A lot of resources today are used to prevent crime from happening in the first place and while this is probably the best place to use it as there is not too much society can do to change the way a person is born, most people do not realize that there is much more to it than that. You can promote more opportunities to get involved in good things or stop weapons from being accessible to civilians as much as you would like, as long as you realize that some people are truly just born a certain way, with a destiny to commit crime, and there is nothing that can be done to stop it.

This idea relates to Macbeth in several ways. Macbeth was born into an area where he was able to join the army, and work his way up to becoming a general, with this coming experience. Experiences that have happened on the battlefield may have been considered crime, but the main act that has happened so far has been the murder of King Duncan which was most definitely criminal in nature. Macbeth has obviously been in the army for quite a while considering he is a general. Being in the army for so long, especially during a war means that he has probably beat opponents and has killed a few people along the way, gaining experience in dealing with other people and possibly killing them. This experience could not prepare him for what was at home, however, as Lady Macbeth was most likely not very high on his "list" of people able to manipulate him. Lady Macbeth describes Macbeth as being too kind, saying "Your hand, your tongue, look like the innocent flower." She does not think that Macbeth will be able to do anything evil on his own, and she manipulates him into wanting to be King so badly, he is willing to kill for it. Experiences such as this manipulation and his quest for more power led to Macbeth murdering King Duncan, completing his criminal journey. As people in society seek to gain more power over everyone else, many will go through tremendous efforts to get to that pinnacle, possibly even to the extent of committing criminal acts. Whether they were born to live that life, life experiences shaped that path for them, or both, it was the wrong way to go about doing it. So, how far would the 'average' person go to gain a better life, and would they be okay with how they did it? The answer lies in the life, before and after birth, that that person occupied.

