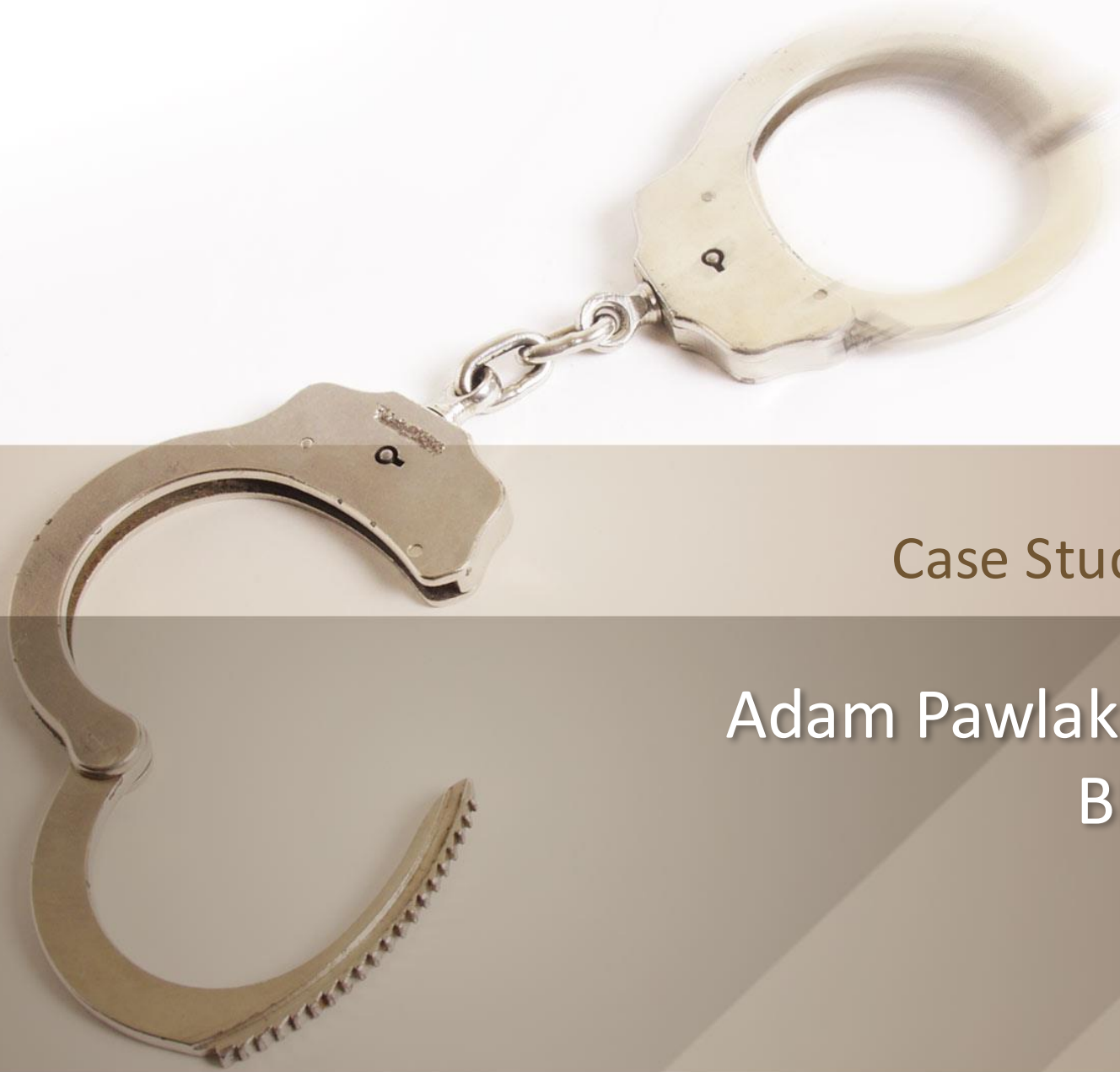
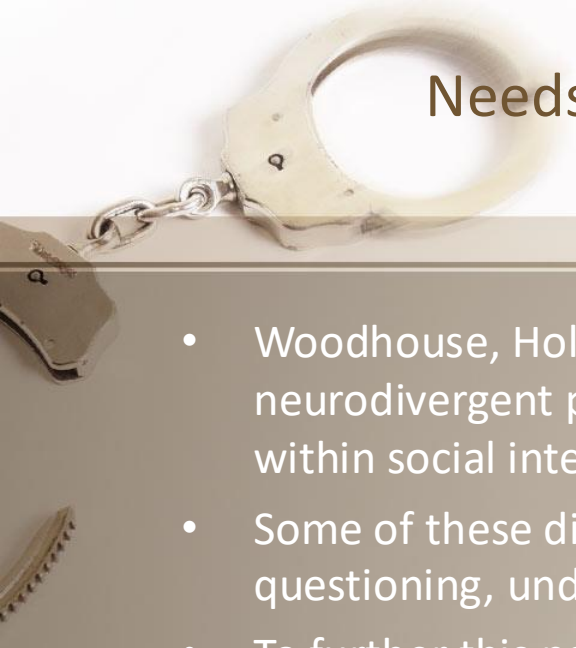




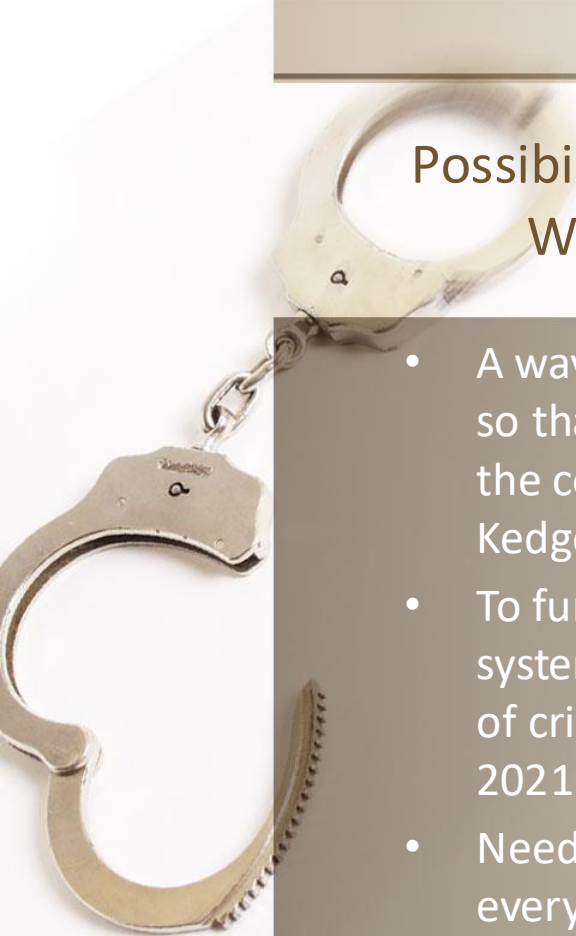
Case Study Analysis

Adam Pawlak 2508253
BMLC4003



Needs and core issues of neurodivergent individuals who experienced criminal justice process

- Woodhouse, Hollingdale, Davies et al (2024) helps explain core challenges that neurodivergent people experience often include, having issues communicating within social interaction.
- Some of these difficulties can be, being able to communicate to police questioning, understanding legal rights and court proceedings.
- To further this point (Marsden, 2025, p. 67) states that neurodivergent people have issues when communicating leading to troubles when being encountered by the police.



Possibilities to improve Criminal Justice System in England & Wales to better accommodate neurodiverse individuals

- A way to improve is to make sure that it is suitable for younger people so that they are not feeling left out and have the right support with the correct facilities that they need (Clasby, Mirfin-Veitch, Blackett, Kedge, Whitehead 2022).
- To further extend on the possibility to improve the criminal justice system is by making sure that involving autistic people in the change of criminal justice system itself (Shea-Lawer, Cooper, Wilson-Blank 2021)
- Needs to have changes all together not just in court cases but everywhere



Case Study John

John's Experience

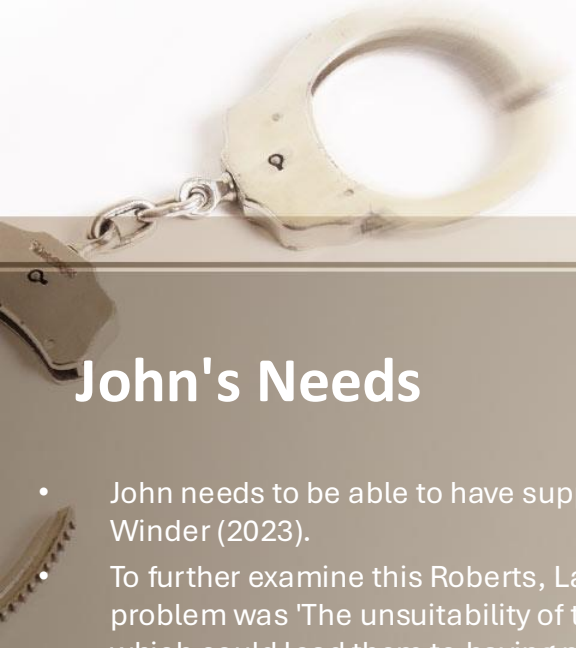
- Has Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Convicted of low-level offences (theft and public order offences)
- John was unbeknown to his autism until he was arrested by the police and they done further tests.
- John struggled with communication which led to him having problems interacting with the guards / police
- Sensitive needs results in prison being challenging (more anxiety and behavioural issues)
- Amanda, Lisette, Allely (2015) states that people with ASDs suffer with anxiety due to their traits.



Case Study John

Why John might have committed

- A great point by Alexander-Passe (2025) it shows that people with ASD can have severe levels of anxiety which could result to meltdowns and they could lead to 'aggressive' behaviour ending up in an arrest.
- To counter that argument is it also stated that individuals with ASD actually are becoming victims to themselves meaning that they could do crimes indirectly due to exploitation.



Case Study John

John's Needs

- John needs to be able to have support with communicating with other people due to his autism spectrum disorder Vinter, Dillon, Winder (2023).
- To further examine this Roberts, Lawrence (2025) elaborate that there were tests carried out and the data showed that a common problem was 'The unsuitability of the prison environment' . What this means is that prisons do not help with autistic individuals which could lead them to having panic attacks on top of that does not help with their impulsivity and hyperactivity just to name a few.



Case Study John

Recommendations for support to promote desistance for John

- A great recommendation would be to have structured social skills support. Implying someone who is experienced to come and help John understand. Individuals with ASD can suffer greatly from being unable to speak to someone (Alvarez 2025).
- Adding onto that neurodiverse people in prison are a lot more vulnerable. We can see this because University of Exeter 2024 explicitly says "Prisoners with neurodisability were more vulnerable to suicidality and self-harm" meaning that



Case Study John

Recommendations for support to promote desistance for John

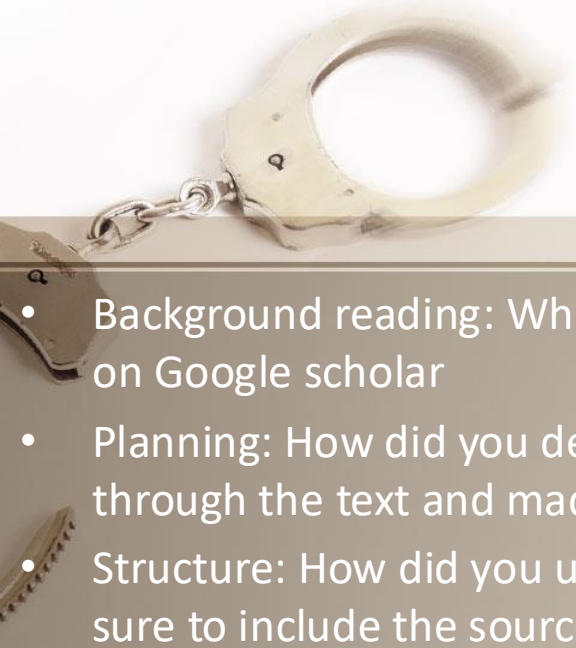
- Another recommendation is to have an easier rehab program for neurodivergent people and not put them in the same room as someone who does not have it as it might overwhelm them so they need to make sure its suitable for them (Vinter, Dillon, Winder 2024)
- Furthermore a recommendation from Kandola, Walton (2024) is to have more thorough risk assessment to examine and acknowledge John's traits to avoid a 'stereotypical' assumption about ASD's.



Case Study John

Recommendations for support to promote desistance for John

- To expand on recommendations another one could be additional training for prison staff so that they have an understanding about people with neurodivergent tendencies and then could better assist them (Gibbs 2025)
- On top of that the initial article title is instantly eye catching it asserts "It's my brain why don't they get that my brain is different" implying that its not the same as a 'regular' person that has a 'regular' functioning brain but that there is clearly a difficult and that's it is with ASD which they cannot control.



Research Timeline

- Background reading: Where did you access the initial reading and why? I found everything on Google scholar
- Planning: How did you decide which reading was relevant to your presentation? I scanned through the text and made sure that it is what I am talking about
- Structure: How did you utilise the selected sources to structure your presentation? I made sure to include the sources in my writing
- Wider Reading: Did you use any additional sources to build upon your initial research? I did not I used Google scholar only
- Reflection/Challenges: Did you face any challenges when conducting your research? What would you do differently next time? I did not face any challenges when conducting my research. I would try to use the UWTSD library to get more sources.



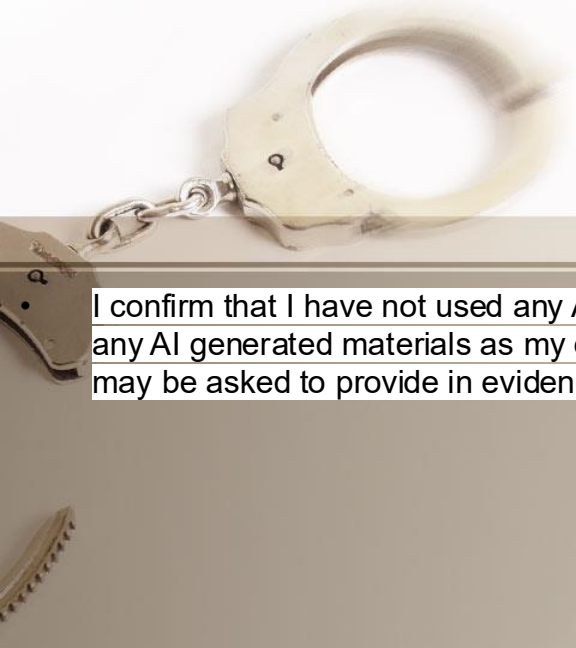
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AI Acknowledgement

I confirm that I have not used any AI tools in the research and creation of this assignment. I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated materials as my own work. I confirm I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used, which I may be asked to provide in evidence.