**Paper 3 – Theory and Methods**

**Functionalism**

Possible questions

10 marks

* Outline and explain two functionalist concepts.
* Outline and explain two arguments that suggest functionalist theories may have little to contribute to an understanding of society today.

20 marks

**Item B11**

*Functionalism is a consensus theory. It sees society is based on a set of shared values and this value consensus is the basis for social order. It is also a systems theory. It emphasizes the way the social system shapes social institutions and behaviour patterns of individuals. Society is seen as a system with its own separate existence and needs. However, some critics claim that functionalism understates the extent of conflict in society. Others argue that functionalism is too deterministic, portraying individuals as simply the puppets of the social system.*

Applying material from item B11 and your own knowledge, Evaluate the claim that functionalism understates both the extent of conflict in society and the ability of social actors to create Society through into action.

What you need to know about Functionalism for paper 3

The difference between consensus and conflict theories of society, including functionalism.

Suggested content………

Parsons

Durkheim

Value Consensus and Social Order

Parts of the Social System

System’s needs

Social Change.

Merton’s Critique

External Critiques

Useful mindmaps…..

1. What the theory is using Key Terms
2. Strengths and Criticisms