Functionalism knowledge organiser

**Socialisation and social control**

Individuals need to be integrated into the social system.

PARSONS says this is done by

**Primary and secondary socialisation** (family, media, religion, education)

**Social control** positive sanctions to reward conformity. Negative ones to punish deviance.

**Key Concepts PARSONS**

Value consensus – everyone agrees on shared norms and values.

Social order – everyone agrees so there is order not chaos.

**Organic analogy**

PARSONS claimed that society is like a biological organism.

System – parts fit together like bits of the human body.

System needs – the needs must be met or an organism will die – same for society. Functionalism sees society as having basic needs which must be met to survive.

Functions – the function of any part of a system is the contribution it makes to meeting needs. Eg the circulation system in the body carried oxygen. The economy in society meets the needs for food and shelter.

**Overview**

Durkheim was the main theorist in 19th century but Parsons is also very important. We have met functionalist in crime, religion, family and education.

This is a MACRO theory (focussing on the needs of the whole society)

It is a STRUCTURAL theory (focussing on the needs of structures within society.

It is a CONSENSUS theory (based on agreement)

For Parsons – 2 types of society – traditional and modern. Modern society has norms of self interest and people are judged by universalistic standards. Societies slowly evolve from one type to another. In a modern society the functions of kinship are replaced by political parties, schools churches etc.

**PARSONS** a building block approach to describing society with the following bricks……

For Parsons, society is a system with its own needs. Which are AGIL…**adaptation** (members needs are met through economic sub-system) **goal attainment** (goals are set and resources allocated trough political sub-system) **Integration** (different parts must fit together – helped by religion, education and the media), **latency** (society is maintained over time but socialising individuals)

**Durkheim Anomie etc**

Traditional society was based on ‘mechanical solidarity’ with little division of labour. Industrial society brings division of labour, movement and a variety of norms. Social solidarity is weakened which leads to ‘anomie’ **or normlessness**.

Durkheim thinks society exists over and above its members.

Whole social system.

institutions

Status roles

Norms

Actions