

FUNCTIONALISM

A theory that states society is in a state of **CONSENSUS** (agreement).

Society SHARES norms and values.

Functionalists argue that society is like a human body. Just as different organs work together to keep the body alive; different institutions in society work together for the good of society as a whole.



Everything (and everyone) in society has a function

KEY IDEAS OF FUNCTIONALISM

- **VALUE CONSENSUS:** Members of society share a belief in common values
- **ORGANIC ANALOGY:** Just as the different organs in the body work together to keep the human being alive, the institutions of society work together for the good of the social whole
- **COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS** Emile Durkheim (French 'founding father' of sociology) argues That Humans have a collective understanding of SOCIAL NORMS

