

# Functionalism and Education

## Emile Durkheim: Social Solidarity

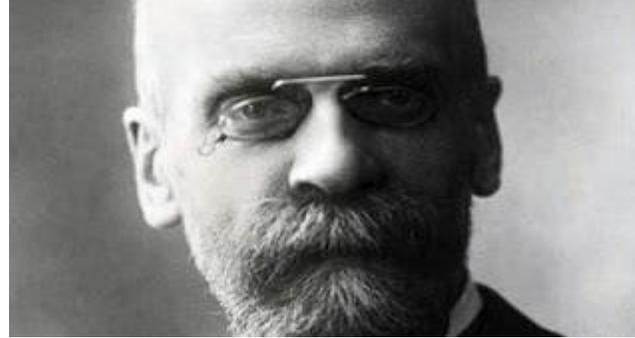
One function of the education system is to create a sense of togetherness or cohesion by creating a sense of social solidarity. This is achieved through the formal curriculum, particularly in history and literature, or through assemblies, school 'houses' and through enforcing British Values

AO3: Does social solidarity exist in a divided post-modern society? Are we just passing on ruling class norms and values?

## Emile Durkheim: Teaching of Specialist Skills

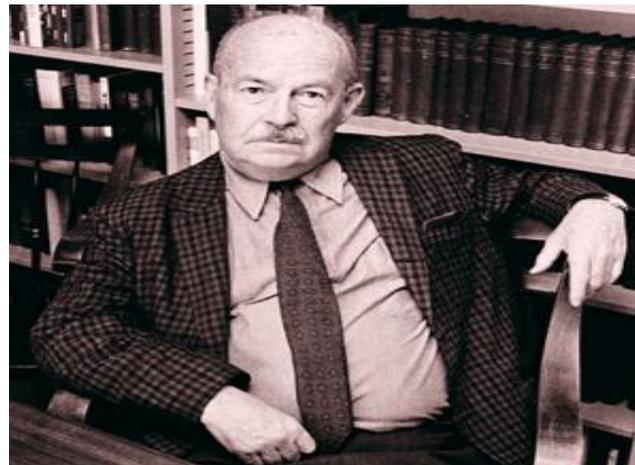
Education provides students with the specific skills they need to be part of the complex division of labour in a modern society. This is achieved through learning subjects that are specific to careers, vocational education and basic literacy and numeracy

AO3: Post-Fordist economy requires a diverse range of skills not taught in education. Large numbers of unemployed 18-24 year olds



You can compare and contrast Functionalist views with

<b>Marxists</b>	<b>Feminists</b>
<b>Post-Modernists</b>	<b>New right</b>



## Talcott Parsons: Secondary Socialisation

According to Parsons, school acts as a bridge between home and society changing the values of the home into values of wider society. At home students have particularistic values, ascribed status and collectivist beliefs. Schools transform these into universal values, achieved status and individualistic beliefs that are present in wider society.

AO3: Are these values enforcing ruling class ideology onto students?

## Davis and Moore: Role Allocation

The education system sifts and sorts students into their future roles in society. This is achieved through promoting meritocracy and rewarding students based upon their ability with higher status and more opportunity

AO3: Marxists would argue that Meritocracy is a myth and that role allocation merely reproduces inequality in society

## A02 Application

Questions on this topic may include:

Evaluate the view that the main purpose of education is to serve the needs of the economy/prepare students for their future roles/reinforce society's norms and values (30)