



Talcott Parsons (1902-1979)
The nuclear family has two basic functions for society which are the primary socialisation of children and the stabilisation of adult personalities. The family is essential in modern society.



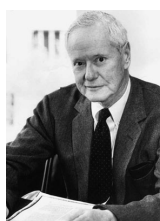
Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)
One of the functions of education is to transmit norms and values to the next generation so that they feel part of the wider community and society continues.

Education teaches the specialist skills that people need to fit into modern industrial society.

Functionalists look at how different SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS, such as the family, education system, religion, and the criminal justice system work together (function) for the benefit of people and society as a whole. Functionalists argue that social norms develop through CONSENSUS and that norms and values represent the values of society as a whole.

Davis & Moore

The function of education is to ensure that people are fitted to the jobs that most suit them in society and to make sure that the most talented people rise to the top.



Robert Merton (1910-2003)
The pressure to achieve the goals of society places great strain on society's members. People respond to this strain in different ways – most follow the normal path to success, but some innovate to find new ways of achieving these goals, such as crime.

Wilmott & Young

Families have changed over time so that gender roles have become more equal. These changes occurred first in families of higher social status and have gradually been passed down to 'lower class social groups.