



PAPER 2: SOCIAL STRATIFICATION – FUNCTIONALIST PERSPECTIVE

5 FACTS ABOUT THE FUNCTIONALIST PERSPECTIVE ON SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

4 TRUE OR FALSE STATEMENTS

Functionalists argue that inequality is harmful to society.	
Davis and Moore argued that social stratification ensures the most important roles are filled by the most talented people.	
Parsons claimed that society is based on value consensus.	
According to functionalists, people in the highest positions use their power mainly for personal gain	

3 MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

What is the main purpose of inequality according to functionalists?	Which sociologists developed the role allocation theory?	What example did Parsons use to show that different societies have different values?
a) To create conflict	a) Marx and Engels	a) The British monarchy
b) To motivate talented people to take on important roles	b) Parsons and Durkheim	b) The education system
c) To maintain class divisions	c) Davis and Moore	c) American Dream
d) To restrict women's opportunities	d) Weber and Giddens	d) The Sioux Indians valuing bravery

2 SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Explain how functionalists believe rewards motivate individuals to pursue high-level jobs.

What is meant by 'value consensus' in relation to social stratification?

1 CRITICISM OF THE FUNCTIONALIST PERSPECTIVE ON SOCIAL STRATIFICATION