Assignment brief Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria 2020-21

Sample number: 3

Unit Title: Sociology – EE2/3/AA/09G

Overview of assessment task

Produce an A4 double sided magazine article describing and explaining how social order and change impacts lives in society and impacts social organizations. The article can include relevant graphics/ diagrams. Include relevant theory and concept.

1. Describe social order and social change. Include how society has been organized historically and changes over time
2. Explain social change using relevant theory and concept how this relates to social organizations and its impact on society
3. References in Harvard referencing format and include a bibliography

Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
3. Understand the impact that social change has on social organisations and institutions and on the ordering of people's lives	3.1. Describe social order and social change 3.2. Explain social change using relevant theory and concept

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GD 5: Communication and presentation

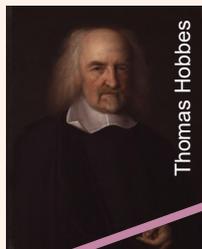| Merit	Distinction
The student, student's work or performance: shows **very good** command of • format • referencing	The student, student's work or performance: shows **excellent** command of • format • referencing

GD 7: Quality

Merit	Distinction
The student, student's work or performance: a. is structured in a way that is **generally** logical and fluent	The student, student's work or performance: a. is structured in a way that is **consistently** logical and fluent

Social Order

Social Order is a fundamental concept in the field of Sociology, that refers to the organisation of many interrelated components that make up our society.

⇒ Thomas Hobbes was the first to theories "Social Order" and came up with "social contracts".

⇒ Karl Marx proposed that the relations between production and economic structure are the basis of Social Order.

⇒ Talcot Parsons proposed that social order is a set of social institutions regulating the conformity of individuals based on cultural values.

⇒ Jürgen Habermas proposed Social Order was all of the above as well as communicative action.

Thomas Hobbes

Social Contracts are the standards and expectations that the majority of society agree to conform to, in order to maintain order and stability. Social Contracts serve as the foundation for governments and laws.
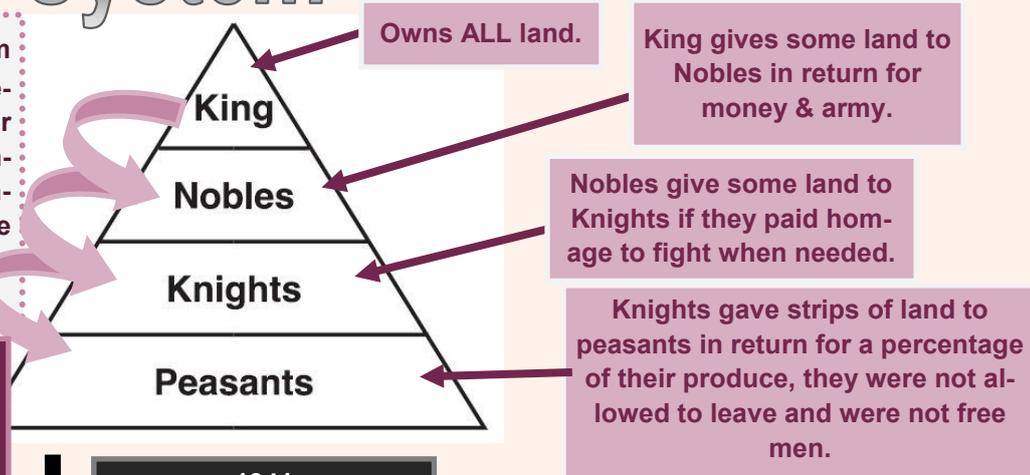
Social Change

Social Change refers to any significant alteration over time in behaviour patterns and cultural values and norms.

◊ Social change happens everywhere but rate of change varies from place to place.

◊ Social Change is often unplanned.

◊ Social Change generates controversy.

◊ Some changes are more important than others.

The Feudal System

The concept of Feudalism emerged in the 1960s to describe a theory on how power in the 12th century was organised. When William of Normandy conquered England, he brought with him the European feudal system.

King — Owns ALL land.

King gives some land to Nobles in return for money & army.

Nobles give some land to Knights if they paid homage to fight when needed.

Knights gave strips of land to peasants in return for a percentage of their produce, they were not allowed to leave and were not free men.

**King
Nobles
Knights
Peasants**

"Chivalry's not dead."
♦ *Knights in the feudal system developed ideas of "chivalry" derived from "Cheval"- the French term for horse.*
♦ *The idea gave us beliefs on good conduct– loyalty, courage & defending the weak.*

1341
The House of Commons began meeting.

1642
Civil War broke out between King James II and Parliament.

1688
The Glorious Revolution established a constitutional monarchy. Upper classes remained in control.

1928
Men and women over the age of 21 have the right to vote.

1969
Voting age lowered to 18.

Britain became a democratic society with the introduction of the Representation of the People Acts of 1918 & 1928 gave all the right to vote. The power shifted from the top-down to bottom-up, giving the people the power.

Now, we live by consensus in order to maintain social order.

King James II

House of Commons

Theories of Social Change.

Evolutionary Theory.

Evolutionary theories are based on the assumption that society gradually changes from simple beginnings into a more complex structure. Early sociologists beginning with *Auguste Comte* believed that human societies evolve in a unilinear way- that is in one line of development. According to them social change meant progress toward something better. According to them, the evolutionary process implied that societies would necessarily reach new and higher levels of civilization, resulting in the same destiny. *Herbert Spencer* compared society to a living organism with interrelated parts moving towards a common goal. Contemporary social evolutionists, such as *Gerhard Lenski,* view social change as multilinear. This theory states that change can occur in several ways and does not lead in the same direction.

Functionalist Theory.

Functionalists such as Talcot Parsons, emphasize what maintains society rather than what changes it. He saw society in its natural state as stable and balanced, which he coined "Equilibrium Theory". According to this, changes to one aspect of society require adjustments in other aspects. When these adjustments are not met accordingly, balance disappears and the social order is threatened. Critics argue that functionalists minimize the effects of change because all aspects of society contribute to society's overall health. They also argue that functionalists ignore the use of force by societies powerful, in order to maintain an illusion of stability and integration.

Conflict Theory.

Conflict theorists maintain that change plays a vital role in remedying social inequalities and injustices. Karl Marx accepted the evolutionary argument that societies develop along a specific direction however, he did not agree that each successive stage presents an improvement over the previous. Marx noted that history proceeds in stages in which the rich always exploit the poor and weak. His view of social change is proactive; it does not rely on people staying passive in response to

Karl Marx

exploitation or other problems in material culture. Instead, it presents tools for individuals to regain their freedom. Marx said conflict is essential in initiating social change and ridding society of its inequalities. Critics of Marx's Conflict Theory note that it does not always recognize that social upheaval does not inevitably lead to positive or expected outcomes.
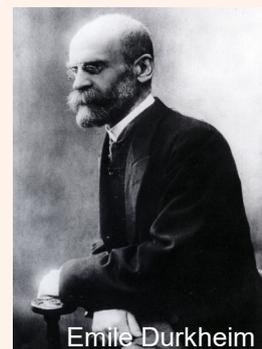
Functionalist theories of society are based on the assumption that society operates one basis of consensus. They argue that there is a social structure that shapes an individuals behaviour through the process of socialisation. Durkheim proposed that members of society are constrained by "social facts" which include: beliefs, morals and basic norms and values, which are shared by passing down through generations. For example, parents will encourage children to follow their religion and beliefs. Social institutions such as the education system, also promote certain norms and values, thus preparing children for adult society. Religious institutions unite society through shared beliefs.

The concept of Identity, is heavily influenced by Functionalism as social institutions provide us with a sense of sameness and belonging, due to a shared belief or goal.

The Functionalist Theory proposed changes in society that ultimately influence our society today. Consensus provides us with a hood idea of how we should behave in social situations, and if consensus did not exist, we would live in a state of confusion and uncertainty about our values and behaviour would be prevalent in society. Today, social institutions influence our beliefs and morals whether we know it or not. This maintains the equilibrium between various parts of society so that they work together harmoniously.

Emile Durkheim