

Question 3 (6 marks)

Name ONE theory of social change Functionalist theory

With reference to a country you have studied, evaluate how your chosen theory of social change helps you to understand ONE feature of continuity and ONE feature of change within that country.

The functionalist theory, founded by Emile Durkheim and noted American sociologist Talcott Parsons helps the understanding of continuity and change in Indonesia.

The functionalist theory maintains that everybody must work together to create a successful society and that social change is brought about through deviance or dysfunctionality.

This helps explain the collectivist society of Indonesia where traditional family life still exists, only because everyone participates fully in that type of society.

It also depends on everyone having a sound understanding of what their position is in society. For example, a young village boy would never upset an elder member of his community.

Social change, which can be seen in Indonesia as the changing nature of urban cities is a result of more and more Indonesians defying their traditional culture and adopting a more Western attitude in terms of values, beliefs, attitudes and lifestyle.

These changes in Indonesian society are clearly explained by the functionalist social theory.