Key features of Functionalist Theory

1	Consensus theory, structural, society vs individual, social order is maintained through socialisation of a shared set of norms and values- the central value system.

DURKHEIM

1	Inevitability of crime	Crime is dysfunctional but is also inevitable-due to inadequate socialisation and subcultural norms and values.
2	2 negative aspects of crime	Anomie- normlessness Egoism-collective conscience is too weak-leads to selfish desires.
3	3 positive functions of crime	Boundary maintenance, adaptation and change and social cohesion (see key vocab for more detail)
4	Key Study	Suicide

CRITICISM of DURKHEIM

1	Strength	Newburn-Suggests crime is normal
2	Strength	Linked crime to social values-allowed for change
3	Strength	Influenced strain theory
4	Weakness	Marxist-ignores power of ruling class to create laws.
5	Weakness	Doesn't quantify how much crime is beneficial to society
6	Weakness	Crime does not always lead to cohesion-can cause isolation

MERTON- Strain Theory: Anomie

1	Anomie and strain theory	Crime and deviance were the result of a strain / gap between the approved goals of society and the approved means of achieving them.
2	5 Responses to strain	• Conformity • Innovation eg crime • Ritualism eg coasting • Rebellion eg activism • Retreatism eg drop out

CRITICISM of MERTON

1	Weakness	Over exaggerates the importance of monetary success.
2	Weakness	Underestimates the amount of crime committed by those who have achieved societal goals.
3	Weakness	Doesn't explain why groups choose the response they do.
4	Weakness	Fails to explain non-utilitarian crime
5	Strength	Influenced strain-based subcultural theory

Key Vocabulary

1	Boundary maintenance	Crime reminds people of the rules
2	Adaptation and change	Crime helps us improve the law/create new laws
3	Social cohesion	Communities are drawn closer together
4	Anomie/ Strain	Normlessnes-gap between goals and means of success
5	Egoism	Giving in to selfish desires
6	Conformity	Following the norms of society
7	Innovation	Accept goals, reject means eg crime
8	Ritualism	Accept means but not goals eg coasting
9	Rebellion	Reject means and goals –create own eg activism
10	Retreatism	Reject means and goals eg drugs

Part of sociological explanations of crime, deviance, social order and social control- also see Hirschi and Sucultural Theories

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STRAIN-BASED SUBCULTURAL THEORY 1: COHEN

1	Key idea	Looks at deviance amongst young boys. They face anomie in a middle-class school system. They develop status frustration which leads to the creation of subcultures
2	Key concept: Status frustration	they fail to adjust to the low status they are given by wider society.
3	Delinquent subculture develops	Resolves frustration as it inverts mainstream values.
4	Illegitimate opportunity structure	The subculture offers deviant opportunities to gain status from peers.

CRITICISM of COHEN

1	Strength	Explains deviance as a group response- Merton only looked at individual responses to anomie.
2	Weakness	It assumes that young working-class delinquents desire mainstream values - only developing delinquent values when they fail to achieve.
3	Weakness	BOX (81) may only apply to a minority of offenders.
4	Weakness	Feminists: Ignores female offending
5	Weakness	Only discusses youth crime.
6	Weakness	WILLIS- working class boys don't share same idea of status as middle class boys.

STRAIN-BASED SUBCULTURAL THEORY 2: CLOWARD and OHLIN

1	Agree with Merton	Explain working-class crime in terms of goals and means.
2	Disagree with Merton	Delinquents have their own set of subcultural values.
3	Blocked opportunities	They develop an illegitimate opportunity structure due to a lack of opportunities.
4	3 types of subculture	Criminal –hierarchical Conflict- violent Retreatist-Individual- eg Drugs

CRITICISM of CLOWARD and OHLIN

1	Weakness	HOBBS (98) and RUGGIERO and KHAN (2007) Networks are now less-organised and more loose-knit.
2	Weakness	There may be overlap between the 3 subcultures.
3	Weakness	Ignores female offending

Key Vocabulary

1	Status Frustration	fail to adjust to your low status given by wider society
2	Illegitimate opportunity structure	The subculture offers deviant opportunities to gain status from peers.
3	Subculture	A culture within the wider culture that inverts mainstream values.
4	Criminal subculture	Local, hierarchical structure eg mafia
5	Conflict subculture	Based on violence to compete for scarce resources eg gang
6	Retreatist subculture	Lacking access to the other two subcultures people take the individual response of dropping out eg drug habit.

Part of sociological explanations of crime, deviance, social order and social control- also see other Theories of Crime

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SUBCULTURAL THEORY 3: MILLER –Focal Concerns

1	**Disagrees with strain-based theories**	He claimed the lower working-class were socialised into deviant subcultural values he called 'focal concerns'
2	**6 Focal Concerns that lead to crime and deviance**	Smartness, trouble, toughness, excitement, autonomy, fate

CRITICISMS of SUBCULTURAL THEORY 3: MILLER –Focal Concerns

1	**Strength**	**Howard Parker (1974)** found evidence of these amongst working-class youth in Liverpool
2	**Weakness**	However, **David Downes** (1966) found limited evidence of subcultural values in his study of working-class youth in East London

SUBCULTURAL THEORY 4: MATZA-Techniques of neutralisation

1	**Key idea**	adopts an **interactionist** critique of subcultural theory. Young people **'drift'** into and out of deviance. They are less skilled in suppressing **subterranean values** They use **techniques of neutralisation** to justify their actions-leads to crime and deviance.
2	**Techniques of neutralisation**	• **Denial of responsibility** eg. "It wasn't me, it was the drink!" • **Denial of victim**: Victim was the guilty party eg. Led me on • **Denial of injury**: The victim was not really harmed eg. Petty theft • **Condemnation of condemners**: Being picked on • **Appeal to higher loyalties**: Had to ignore the rules to support the family or friendship group.

SUBCULTURAL THEORY 4: MATZA-Techniques of neutralisation

1	**Strength**	Shows that criminality is not a permanent state
2	**Weakness**	Only useful in explaining the behaviours of young people. Only useful in explaining delinquent behaviours.

POSTMODERNIST CRITIQUE

1	**MAFFESOLI** Neo-Tribes	Need to consider a subculture in more fluid terms
2	**KATZ** Seductions	Crime is a pursuit of thrills.
3	**LYNG** Edgework	Crime is the result of risk-taking.

Key Vocabulary

1	**Focal concerns**	Values shared by working class males that lead to crime
2	**Subterranean values**	Deviant values we all share but that cannot be easily suppressed by young people
3	**Neo-Tribe**	Postmodernist term used to define subcultures
4	**Edgework**	Describes risk-taking behaviour in postmodern world
5	**Seductions of Crime**	People commit crime to pursue thrills.
6	**Techniques of neutralisation**	Used by young people to justify their deviance.

Part of sociological explanations of crime, deviance, social order and social control- also see other Theories of Crime