FUNCTIONALISM AND CRIME

Explain crime along social lines rather than biological or psychological lines

It reinforces social solidarity and harmony

DAVIS: crimes acts as a safety valve for society

Crime may act as a warning about a problem in the way that society is organised

DURKHEIM: crime is present in all societies - there will always be people who commit offending acts

Crime is inevitable - environmental/social and hereditary factors influence people differently

Crime is normal behaviour & a part of a healthy society

DURKHEIM: laws and customs have a coercive power over us

If we conform to them then we are only slightly aware of them, if we break them we will face strong negative sanctions

Crime is harmful & dysfunctional for society