theory also promotes a hierarchy of institutions and power positions, in government, law enforcements, and schools and so on, according to conflict theory this only keeps the working class at the bottom, unable to share in the spoils of those at the top.

In conclusion, the core arguments and key features of these theories are incredibly different to one another. It is difficult to compare them unless speaking about their contrasts. The primary debate is that social order is unstable and needs to be protected and enforced by regulations and laws versus necessary conflict which is caused by inequality that results in desired change. As this essay has argued, they are two of the most influential perspectives that acknowledge how society works. Both theories are partially correct and we have seen society operate according to both perspectives. Society goes through cycles of stability and then conflict. One cannot assume everyone will behave the same under different circumstances. At one point in time a society may be stable and orderly, where minorities are able to get ahead through hard work. At another point, however, society might be characterized by disorder and conflict where minorities might advance only via protest and rebellion (Farley, 2000:86).