Criticisms of Functionalism:

- Functionalist research is biased as it was done by American, white middle class men about American white middle class youth.

- It ignores the differences in youth and the experiences of them, for example, different subcultures and the experiences of youth from different ethnicities.

- Marxism says that it ignores the conflict that occurs during this time and places too much emphasis on the positive role of youth.

- Functionalists see youth cultures as 'homogenous' (all the same) despite their differences in personal taste and style, this means that functionalists only see youth culture as a whole and not separate subcultures e.g. punks, mods, skinheads etc.