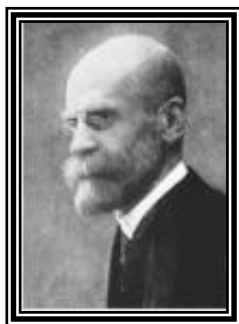


sample resources

Sociology



Durkheim and Positivist Sociology

“Every individual is born into a society which is already organised, and which thereby moulds his personal development”

“An individual is therefore only one element in a totality, a single unit in a much larger system”

Task: Write an explanation of Positivist Sociology, in the box below, using the following to help:

1. The above quotes that are taken from an explanation of Durkheim’s work given by Anthony Giddens
 2. The ‘Making sense of Durkheim’ work that you have completed
 3. The following Sociological terms:
- **Structuralism:** A perspective in Sociology that believes that an understanding of society can be gained from an analysis of social structures
 - **Macro:** The analysis of large collectives
 - **Quantitative Methods:** Methods of data collection that obtain large amounts of statistical data
 - **Objectivity/Value Freedom:** The belief that society can and should be studied in a way that is free from prejudice/judgement
 - **Reliability:** A way of describing data that would be the same if the data were collected using the same methods, but by a different researcher
 - **Comparative Method:** An approach that compares variables to establish significant relationships