

GCSE Sociology (AQA)

Summer Term 2023

Topic: Functions of Families

Functionalist perspective: The belief that the family has key functions such as socialisation and stabilisation of adult personalities which benefit society as a whole.

Marxist perspective: The belief that the family serves to perpetuate the inequalities of capitalism through inheritance of wealth and values and the exploitation of unpaid domestic labour.

Feminist perspective: The belief that the family is a patriarchal institution which perpetuates gender inequalities through the division of domestic labour, gender socialisation, and domestic violence.

Postmodern perspective: The belief that the traditional nuclear family has declined in significance and been replaced by a variety of family forms and that individuals now have more choice in their family arrangements.

Primary socialisation: The process of learning the basic norms and values of a culture in childhood, primarily through the family.

Gender socialisation: The process of learning what is expected of one's gender in a particular culture, primarily through the family.

Cultural transmission: The process by which culture is passed from one generation to the next, primarily through the family.

Resocialisation: The process of learning new norms and values when entering a new social environment.

Topic: Family Forms

Nuclear family: A family unit consisting of a married or cohabiting couple and their dependent children.

Extended family: A family unit that includes grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and other relatives beyond the nuclear family.

Lone parent family: A family unit where one parent raises one or more children.

Reconstituted family: A family unit where one or both partners have children from a previous relationship, forming a stepfamily.

Same-sex family: A family unit where the parents are of the same sex.

Beanpole family: A family unit where there are multiple generations but fewer children per generation, resulting in a long, thin structure.

Topic: Conjugal Roles

Division of domestic labour: The allocation of household tasks between family members.

The triple shift: The burden on women who work outside the home, take care of children, and do most of the domestic work.

Patriarchy: A social system in which men hold primary power and predominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege and control of property.

Topic: Changing Relationships

Decline of marriage: The decreasing proportion of the population that is married or getting married.

Rise of cohabitation: The increasing number of couples who live together without being married.

Increase in divorce rates: The increasing number of marriages that end in divorce.

Delayed childbirth: The trend of people waiting longer to have children, often due to pursuing education and careers.

Childlessness: The trend of people choosing not to have children.

Symmetrical family: Where a family divides all responsibilities equally between partners.

Topic: Criticisms of Families

Dark side of the family: This side of the family addresses internal issues within the unit, such as domestic violence and abuse.

Domestic violence: Violence committed by one family member against another.

Child abuse: The physical, sexual, or emotional mistreatment or neglect of children.

Topic: Divorce

Increase in divorce rates: The increasing number of marriages that end in divorce.

Secularisation: The decline of religion and the loss of religions influence over state issues.

Lone parent family: A family unit where one parent raises one or more children.