

AS Sociology Paper 2: Families and Household Essay Pack

'Define' Questions:

*These questions will be worth **two marks** and require you to write a clear and succinct definition of the key term.
You will have 10 minutes to answer all three short answer questions.*

| Question | Answer/Plan |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Define the term 'serial monogamy'. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Define the term 'nuclear family'. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Define the term 'patriarchy.' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Define the term 'primary socialisation' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Define the term 'expressive role' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Define the term 'instrumental role' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Define the term 'domestic labour' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Define the term 'dependency culture' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Define the term 'underclass' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Define the term 'monogamy' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Define the term 'symmetrical family' | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'cereal packet family' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'life course'. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'confluent love' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'a pure relationship' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'divorce rate' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'secularisation' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'marriage rate' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'beanpole family' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'arranged marriage' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'birth rate' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'death rate' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'domestic divisions of labour'. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'segregated conjugal roles' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'intergrated (joint) conjugal roles' | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'triple shift' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'emotion work' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'breadwinner' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'social construction' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'globalisation' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'undocumented workers' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'life expectancy' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'infant mortality rate' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'ageing population' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'dependency ratio' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'general fertility rate' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'total fertility rate' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'net migration' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the term 'immigration' | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define the term 'emigration' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define the term 'domestic violence' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define the term 'toxic childhood' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define the term 'age patriarchy' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define the term 'social mobility' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define the term 'geographical mobility' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define the term 'household' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define the term 'family' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define the term 'dual burden' | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define the term 'child centred society' | |

'Using one example, briefly explain' Questions

These questions carry two marks and require you to clearly state and example and then explain that example in a second sentence.

You will have 10 minutes to answer all three short answer questions.

| Question | Answer/Plan |
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| Using one example, briefly explain what is meant by 'reconstituted family' | • |
| Using one example, briefly explain the difference between a family and a household | • |
| Using one example, briefly explain how family life may benefit men more than women. | • |
| Using one example, briefly explain how family life may vary between ethnic groups. | • |
| Using one example, briefly explain how family life may disadvantage women's careers. | • |
| Using one example, briefly explain how there may be a 'loss of childhood' in contemporary Britain | • |
| Using one example, briefly explain why women may choose to postpone having children until they are older. | • |
| Using one example, briefly explain how globalisation may influence families. | • |
| Using one example, explain why the 'pooling' system of managing household finances may not always show equality between spouses. | • |
| Using one example, explain how the difference between adulthood and childhood may be becoming less clear. | • |
| Using one example, explain how changes in the position of women have led to changes in patterns of marriage. | • |

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| Using one example, briefly explain how family life may vary between ethnic groups. | • |
| Using one example, briefly explain how family life may disadvantage women's careers. | • |
| Using one example, briefly explain how there may be a 'loss of childhood' in contemporary Britain | • |
| Using one example, briefly explain why women may choose to postpone having children until they are older. | • |

'Outline three' Questions

These questions carry 6 marks and require you to write 3 separate bullet points and explain them in a second sentence.

You will have 10 minutes to answer all three short answer questions.

| Question | Plan/Answer |
|---|---------------------|
| Outline three reasons for the decline of extended family life | 1 2 3 |
| Outline three government policies that may affect families. | 1 2 3 |
| Outline three reasons for a decline in marriage in the UK. | 1 2 3 |
| Outline three reasons for the increase in the proportion of births taking place outside marriage. | 1 2 3 |
| Outline three reasons for continuing inequality between men and women in contemporary families | 1 2 3 |
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| Outline three reasons why children have less power in society than adults. | 1 2 3 |
| Outline three reasons why the experience of childhood may differ between children in contemporary British Society. | 1 2 3 |
| Outline three reasons for a decrease in family size since 1900. | 1 2 3 |
| Outline three reasons for the decline in infant mortality rates in Britain since 1900. | 1 2 3 |
| Outline three reasons for the increase in lone parent families. | 1 2 3 |
| Outline three characteristics of the symmetrical family. | 1 2 3 |

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| Outline three ways in which adults control children's time, space and bodies. | 1 2 3 |
| Outline three functions that Functionalists see the family as performing. | 1 2 3 |
| Outline three factors that may affect the dependency ratio, apart from migration. | 1 2 3 |
| Outline three types of diversity in family structures. | 1 2 3 |
| Outline three reasons for the decline of extended family life | 1 2 3 |
| Outline three government policies that may affect families. | 1 2 3 |

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| Outline three reasons for a decline in marriage in the UK. | 1 2 3 |
| Outline three reasons for the increase in the proportion of births taking place outside marriage. | 1 2 3 |

'Outline and explain two' Questions

These questions carry 10 marks of AO1 and A02. You should break your mini essay into two paragraphs (plus a conclusion). You should explain the content of your essay and apply it in the same paragraph. Spend approximately 20 minutes writing this answer.

| Question | Plan/Answer |
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| Outline and explain two ways in which changes in society may have weakened the traditional nuclear family unit. (10) | PARA 1 APP PARA 2 APP CONCLUSION |
| Outline and explain two changes in society which have contributed to the increase in single person households. (10) | PARA 1 APP PARA 2 APP CONCLUSION |
| Outline and explain two changes in society which may have contributed to women's changing roles within families. | PARA 1 APP PARA 2 APP CONCLUSION |
| Outline and explain two changes in society which may be reducing the distinction between childhood and adulthood. | PARA 1 APP PARA 2 APP CONCLUSION |

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| Outline and explain two ways in which the ageing population may contribute to family diversity | PARA 1 APP PARA 2 APP CONCLUSION |
| Outline and explain two ways in which greater life expectancy has affected the diversity of families and households. | PARA 1 APP PARA 2 APP CONCLUSION |

'Applying material from item B and your knowledge, evaluate' Questions

This question carries 20 marks and will test your AO1, AO2 and AO3 skills. You should aim for around 4 paragraphs (plus a conclusion). Each paragraph should contain AO1, AO2 & AO3. You will be expected to refer to the item in your essay. You should spend 30 minutes writing this answer.

| Question | Plan/Answer |
|---|---|
| <p>Feminist approaches to the family tend to emphasise the harmful effects of family life upon women. They provide a healthy antidote to Functionalist and New Right accounts, which stress the functional and beneficial side of family life, and downplay the way families may have negative consequences for the lives and opportunities of women.</p> <p>Applying material from item B and your knowledge, evaluate the contribution of feminist views to our understanding of the family (20 marks)</p> | <p>PARA 1</p> <p>PARA 2</p> <p>PARA 3</p> <p>PARA 4</p> <p>CONC</p> |

Since 1900, there have been significant declines in birth rates, and greater life expectancy in the UK. More women are choosing to have fewer or no children and many delay having children until they are older. Such demographic changes are influencing the size and shape of the families and households, and contributing to greater family and household diversity.

Applying material from item B and your knowledge, evaluate the view that demographic changes are leading to more family and household diversity in the contemporary UK. (20 marks)

PARA 1

PARA 2

PARA 3

PARA 4

CONC

In contemporary Britain, families are often thought to be more symmetrical, whereby the relationship between married and cohabiting couples has become less patriarchal, or male dominated and much more an equally balanced partnership. Both partners share household chores, childcare and decision making and both partners are more likely to be involved in paid employment.

Applying material from item B and your knowledge, evaluate the view that contemporary families have become partnerships of equals. (20 marks)

PARA 1

PARA 2

PARA 3

PARA 4

CONC

Some sociologists suggest that contemporary families have become more child-centred than in the past. Parents today spend much more time with their children, and spend a great deal of money to ensure they give their children the most fulfilling upbringing possible. Many parents want their children to have opportunities that they never had themselves as children. Critics of this point to children's lack of control over their lives, child abuse and other problems that children today may face.

Applying material from item B and your knowledge, evaluate the view that contemporary families have become more child centred. (20 marks)

PARA 1

PARA 2

PARA 3

PARA 4

CONC

Families are changing dramatically in the contemporary UK. Divorce rates are high, marriage rates are low and more people are cohabiting rather than getting married. There are more lone parent families than ever, and nearly half of all births are now outside marriage. More people than ever are choosing to live alone.

Applying material from item B and your knowledge, evaluate the view that the family in Britain is in decline (20 marks).

PARA 1

PARA 2

PARA 3

PARA 4

CONC

March of progress sociologists argue that the family is becoming more equal. Increasingly today, both partners are likely to have jobs outside the home and they both carry out household chores and provide childcare. However, feminist sociologists reject this claim. They argue that the family is still patriarchal and that women today carry a dual burden.

Applying material from item B and your knowledge, evaluate the view that the division of labour in couples is now equal (20 marks)

PARA 1

PARA 2

PARA 3

PARA 4

CONC

According to some sociologists, children in today's supposedly child centred society lead lives that are segregated and controlled, but childhood was not always like this. Aries describes a medieval world where there was a little distinction between children and adults and either work or leisure. According to this view, industrial society brought major changes. Children's lives became increasingly confined and regulated by adults. Not all sociologists share this view. Some argue that the distinction between childhood and adulthood is again becoming blurred.
Applying material from item B and your knowledge, evaluate sociological explanations of changes in the status of childhood (20 marks).

PARA 1

PARA 2

PARA 3

PARA 4

CONC

Despite their disagreements, Functionalist, Marxist and Feminist approaches to the family share certain similarities. They are all structural approaches: they see the family as a structure that performs certain function – although they disagree about what these functions are and who benefits from them. Similarly they all assume that by the family we mean the conventional nuclear family. Other Sociologists reject this structural approach. For example, the personal life perspective takes a bottom up view that focuses on people’s meanings and how they themselves define what counts as family.

Applying material from item B and your knowledge, evaluate the usefulness of structural approaches to our understanding of families and households. (20 marks)

PARA 1

PARA 2

PARA 3

PARA 4

CONC

There has been a significant increase in the number of divorces since 1970. One important factor behind the increase has been changes in the law relating to divorce. However, legal changes alone may not be enough to explain the trend and sociologists have suggested a number of possible causes of higher divorce rate. One of these is a decline in the influence of traditional norms about marriage that used to stigmatise divorce.

Applying material from item B and your knowledge, evaluate sociological contributions to our understanding of the trends in divorce in the UK since 1970.

PARA 1

PARA 2

PARA 3

PARA 4

CONC

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| <p>Recent decades have seen a move to a more diverse range of family arrangements. While some sociologists see this as harmful for society, others welcome it because they see it as bringing greater individual choice about relationships. However, some sociologists argue that the extent of change should not be exaggerated. Most people live in something resembling a conventional nuclear family, and many individuals still find their choices limited. For example, while being gays or lesbian is less stigmatised than in the past, it is not always easy for people to 'come out'.</p> <p>Applying material from item B and your knowledge, evaluate sociological contributions to our understanding of family diversity.</p> | <p>PARA 1</p> <p>PARA 2</p> <p>PARA 3</p> <p>PARA 4</p> <p>CONC</p> |
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