

Evaluate the functionalist view of the family (this means 'Is a functionalist view correct?')

Point	Parson's argued that the modern nuclear family performs two essential functions, one was stabilisation of adult personalities.
Explanation <i>Biological gender roles</i> <i>Instrumental role</i> <i>Expressive role</i> <i>Warm bath theory</i>	
Criticism and/or Praise <i>socially constructed</i> <i>feminism</i> <i>patriarchy</i> <i>married couples experience less mental health problems/drug use</i>	<p>A feminist would criticise the functionalist view of gender roles.....</p> <p>However, there is some evidence that marriage</p>
Link to question	Stabilisation of adult's personalities is dated and is not supported by the evidence. Therefore, Functionalism is mainly unhelpful and inaccurate.

Point	Parson's argued that the modern nuclear family performed another essential function, primary socialisation.
Explanation <i>Teaching norms and values</i> <i>Creating harmonious ordered society</i> <i>Only family can provide warmth and support</i>	
Criticism and/or Praise <i>Dark side of family life</i> <i>Too deterministic</i>	<p>Functionalism can be criticised for the following reasons...</p> <p><i>Evidence for Functionalism shows loving families do positively affect outcomes of children. Neglected children are more likely to be criminal and develop social problems.</i></p>
Link	Explain whether you think this show functionalism is accurate or inaccurate about their belief that only the nuclear family can perform primary socialisation.

Point	Murdock argues the nuclear family is universal because it performed four essential functions.
Explanation <i>Murdock studied 200 societies</i> <i>4 essential functions</i>	
Criticism and/or Praise <i>Out of date</i> <i>Some societies don't have families (these are rare)</i>	
Link	Murdock is correct to highlight that the family exists in almost all human societies. However, the functions Murdock described are performed by many different family types today. The nuclear family isn't the only family type that perform the functions.

Point	Marxists argue the main role of the family is to serve the needs of capitalism and that functionalist are wrong to suggest the family and society are harmonious and based on a values consensus.
Explanation <i>Agents of social control</i> <i>Ideological state apparatus</i> <i>False consciousness</i>	According to Marxism, the main role of the family is.... https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhU57_nP3zM&t=53s
Criticism and/or Praise <i>Individual choice</i> <i>Meaning people give to bonds</i> <i>Structural theories</i>	However, a personal life perspective would argue that both Marxism and Functionalism are unhelpful theories for the following reason: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JtSlvFWs1Q&t=222s
Link Explain which view, Marxism, Functionalism or the Personal Life Perspective is most helpful for understanding family.	This shows there are lots of alternative explanations to a Functionalist view and this essay argues that....

Conclusion	Overall I believe a Functionalist view of the family is....
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