

Year 11 Sociology – Families Revision

Changes to the Family

Nuclear Family Decreasing

Secularisation
Increase in divorce
Changing position of women

Single Parent Family Rising

Increase in divorce
Changing attitudes
Greater individualism

Reconstituted Family Rising

Increase in divorce
Changing position of women
Changing attitudes

Decrease in Death Rate

Rise in beanpole family
Improved healthcare

Rise in Symmetrical Family

Changes in law (equal pay)
Changing attitudes
Changing position of women

Increase in Divorce Rate

Change in position of women
Divorce Act (1969)
Secularisation

Decrease in Marriage Rate

Changing position of women
Increasing cost of marriage
Changing attitudes
Increase in cohabitation

Decreasing birth rate

Lower infant mortality rate
Improved career opportunities for women

Increase in Same Sex Parent Families

Secularisation
Same Sex Marriage Act (2013)



Parsons
Functionalism

- Family has two basic functions which are common to all families in all societies: primary socialisation of children and the stabilisation of adult personalities e.g. to give and receive emotional support. The nuclear family is the best family to meet these needs



Rapoport and Rapoport
Functionalism

- Families are changing, there is increasing diversity. Five different aspects of family diversity: organisational (eg internal divisions of domestic labour), cultural (beliefs and values), social class, life course (stage in the family life cycle) and cohort (historical period)



Young and Willmott
Functionalism

- Surveyed and interviewed over 2000 families. Family is becoming more equal between men and women. Rise in the symmetrical family
- Families are more symmetrical with both husband and wife make similar contributions to the running of the household e.g. shared chores and decisions.



Zaretsky
Marxist

- The family also helps to maintain capitalism in society. He thinks that the family helps to provide an 'illusion' that society is fair and provides a safe haven away from exploitation at work. Women become responsible for personal relationships within the family.



Delphy and Leonard
Feminist

- Men benefit the most from the exploitation of women's labour. The family has a central role in maintaining patriarchy. Women are oppressed because even when wives have paid employment outside the home they still have to carry out household tasks which are not equally shared



Oakley
Feminist

- Segregated conjugal roles adopted by men and women are part of the conventional family also known as the 'cereal' packet' family. Women suffer a dual burden of housework and paid work outside the home.

Social Class

Generally pupils from upper and middle class families perform better than students from working class background

Material Deprivation

Working class students lack the cultural ability to succeed at school, unlike middle class children whose culture matches that of the school

Cultural Deprivation

Working class parents encourage an attitude of immediate gratification, focusing on enjoyment now rather than in the future.

Socialisation

Working class parents encourage an attitude of immediate gratification, focusing on enjoyment now rather than in the future.

Labelling

Working class students are more likely to be negatively labelled by teachers due to language and dress

Setting

Working Class students are likely to be placed into bottom sets by teachers

Subcultures

Working class boys are more likely to be involved in anti-school subcultures that value 'mucking around' (Willis, 1977)

Gender

Girls have been outperforming boys at GCSE and A-Level every year in almost all subjects since 1990.

Socialisation

Some ethnic groups are more likely to live in poverty than others, for example Black Caribbean students

Cultural Deprivation

Ethnic minority students may lack the language skills and understanding of British culture to be successful in school.

Socialisation

Students are likely to be placed into bottom set due to racist stereotypes.

Labelling

Black students are most likely to be negatively labelled by schools and 3x as likely to be excluded

Setting

Students are likely to be placed into bottom set due to racist stereotypes.

Subcultures

Black students are most likely to be negatively labelled by schools and 3x as likely to be excluded

Ethnicity

Generally, Chinese and Indian pupils are among the top performing. Black, Irish Traveller and Roma pupils are among the worst performing

Material Deprivation

Some ethnic groups are more likely to live in poverty than others, for example Black Caribbean students

Cultural Deprivation

Ethnic minority students may lack the language skills and understanding of British culture to be successful in school.

Socialisation

Students are likely to be placed into bottom set due to racist stereotypes.

Labelling

Black students are most likely to be negatively labelled by schools and 3x as likely to be excluded

Setting

Students are likely to be placed into bottom set due to racist stereotypes.

Subcultures

Black students are most likely to be negatively labelled by schools and 3x as likely to be excluded



Durkheim
Functionalism

- Durkheim focuses on the role of education he argues that the role of education is to transmit the norms and values of society to the next generation.



Parsons
Functionalism

- Parsons argues there are two main roles of the education system.
- First is to act as a secondary socialisation
- The second is to be meritocratic – to judge each individual according to their ability



Bowles and Gintis
Marxist

- Correspondence Principle. Schools reflect the workplace and train working class students to accept their position. Schools are therefore, not meritocratic.



Willis
Marxist

- Working class boys join anti school subcultures where they attempt to avoid attending lesson. However, this prepares them for a world of low paid, manual labour



Ball
Interactionist

- Pupils in lower sets are more likely to be working class, were not given as much support, were labelled and more likely to be disruptive as a result.



Gervitz
Interactionist

- Focused on the marketisation of schools (how schools are behaving more like businesses). increased parental choice and league tables led to pressure for schools to focus on higher ability (MC) students. Middle class parents use their knowledge to get their children into better schools

Year 11 Sociology – Families Revision

Comprehension Questions

1. Define the term Dual Burden
2. Give 3 ways feminists criticise the family
3. Describe Willmott and Youngs concept of the symmetrical family
4. Explain why the nuclear family is decreasing while other family types are increasing.
5. According to Parsons, what are the functions of the family?
6. How might labelling impact different types of students in schools
7. How can being placed into sets lead to underachievement?
8. According to Parsons, what are the two main functions of the education system?
9. Which ethnic groups overperform in the education system?
10. Explain why working class students may not achieve the same grades as middle class students

Revision Task

Create a mind map for each of the 5 main theoretical viewpoints

Marxism
Functionalism
Feminism
New Right
Interactionism

In your mind map you should outline each perspectives view point on the education system and the family including any key theorists.

Education Exam Practice Question

Have a go at these exam practice questions. Make sure to give it to your teacher so they can mark it for you.

Discuss how far sociologists agree that the roles of men and women in the family have changed significantly in the past 50 years
[12 Marks]

Education Exam Practice Question

Have a go at these exam practice questions. Make sure to give it to your teacher so they can mark it for you.

Discuss how far sociologists would agree that parental attitudes have a significant effect on a child's educational success
[12 Marks]