

Six mark assessment guidance

AQA A Level Sociology 7192 • Families & Households • L009 • v1.0

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Explain two criticisms of functionalist explanations of the family. [6 marks]

Original local classroom bridge. Question ID: RFTS-AQA-AL-SOC-7192-FAM-L009-Q001. This is not an official AQA Paper 2 mark scheme.

How to award marks

For each of two distinct points: 1 mark for an accurate relevant identification, 1 for explaining the mechanism or distinction and 1 for a developed example or comparison showing its relevance. Maximum 3 per point; total 6. Award components independently.

No creditworthy material = 0. Accept valid alternatives and equivalent wording. Credit comparisons where the question requests differences. Do not double-credit repeated versions of the same point. A name alone is not an explanation.

Model response

Functionalism can understate unequal burdens within families. One adult may give up training to provide unpaid care while another keeps paid-work opportunities. A contribution to household welfare therefore does not establish equal benefit for every member.

Functionalist accounts may treat a contribution as evidence that a particular arrangement is necessary. Schools also transmit expectations and skills. This alternative shows that socialisation can be shared between institutions, so family contributions do not demonstrate that only one family form can meet the need.

Why this earns the marks

Each paragraph identifies a distinct relevant point, develops its meaning and demonstrates the connection through an example or comparison: indicative 6/6 under this local rubric.