Knowledge organiser

AQA A Level Sociology 7192 • Families & Households • L010 • v1.0

CONNECT & CHECK | SHARE | PRESENT | APPLY | RECALL & REVIEW

Does capitalism need the family?

Concept	Meaning
Capitalism	An economic system centred on private ownership and production for profit.
Bourgeoisie	In Marxist theory, the class owning major means of production.
Proletariat	In Marxist theory, the class dependent on selling its labour power.
Means of production	Resources and equipment used to produce goods and services.
Private property	Assets controlled by particular owners rather than held in common.
Inheritance	Transfer of property or wealth after an owner's death.
Labour power	A person's capacity to work, sold for wages in Marxist analysis.
Social reproduction	Processes that sustain people, relationships and social arrangements over time.

Consumption and ideology

Concept	Meaning
Ideology	Ideas that may present a social arrangement as natural or legitimate.
Legitimation	Making an arrangement appear justified or acceptable.
Consumption	Use or purchase of goods and services.
Commodity	A good or service produced for exchange.
Class reproduction	Processes through which class advantages and disadvantages persist.
Economic dependence	Reliance on another person or institution for material resources.
Emotional support	Care that may help someone handle feelings and tensions.
Determinism	An explanation treating outcomes as fixed by one set of forces.

Worked explanation

Passing shares can preserve ownership advantages. Meals and care may sustain a worker's capacity to sell labour. These are distinct property and labour-power mechanisms.

Avoid these confusions

Engels's historical account and Zaretsky's interpretation are attributed theoretical claims. Capitalism is not equated with every act of exchange. Inheritance transfers after death; lifetime gifts are analytically related but distinct. No conspiracy or automatic acceptance is assumed. Fictional adverts and transfers are not research findings.

Retrieve later

Tomorrow: define capitalism and bourgeoisie. In one week: explain a case mechanism and one limit without notes.