

Knowledge organiser

AQA A Level Sociology 7192 • Families & Households • L011 • v1.0

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How does the family reproduce inequality?

Concept	Meaning
Economic resources	Income, savings, property and other material assets.
Wealth	The value of assets owned, allowing for relevant debts.
Income	A flow of money received over a period.
Lifetime gift	A transfer made while the giver is alive.
Inheritance	A transfer following an owner's death.
Financial cushion	Resources that help absorb a cost, delay or unexpected loss.
Opportunity	A realistically available course of action or prospect.
Class reproduction	Persistence of class advantages and disadvantages across generations.

Evidence and evaluation

Concept	Meaning
Cumulative advantage	An initial advantage generating further advantages over time.
Social network	Connections through which people may exchange information or support.
Meritocracy	An ideal in which rewards depend on achievement rather than background.
Social mobility	Movement between social positions.
Correlation	An association between observed variables.
Causation	A process through which one factor helps produce an outcome.
Agency	People's capacity to interpret situations and act within constraints.
Counterfactual	What would have happened under a different condition.

Worked explanation

The gift reduces the immediate financial constraint; the relative supplies information. Explain the money and information pathways separately rather than counting the same resource twice.

Avoid these confusions

The paired case is invented and is not an IFS result. IFS findings concern the distribution of substantial financial transfers in Britain; no unverified numerical claim is used. Gifts, loans and inheritances are distinguished. Unequal starting resources do not determine every outcome, and effects on different inequality measures should not be assumed identical.

Retrieve later

Tomorrow: define economic resources and wealth. In one week: explain a case mechanism and one limit without notes.