

Is the family patriarchal?

AQA A Level Sociology 7192 • Families & Households • L012 • v1.0

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

Connect & Check → Share → Present → Apply → Recall & Review. Explain the key concepts, apply them accurately to the supplied case and answer the enquiry with a qualified, evidence-led judgement. Use fictional examples; no personal family disclosure is required.

Recall and connect

Missed the preparation? Why can equal wages coexist with unequal opportunities? Wealth, debts, transfers and responsibilities may differ. What does a resource explanation need beyond a label? A mechanism connecting a resource or constraint to an opportunity or outcome. Why is background not destiny? Agency, institutions and other conditions can alter its effects.

Retrieve the previous lesson, then record a view you can revisit.

R1

Why can equal wages coexist with unequal opportunities?

R2

What does a resource explanation need beyond a label?

R3

Starting judgement: “Sharing a home and income means sharing power equally.” Explain your view.

A structural question

Patriarchy concerns patterns of gendered power; it is not a claim that every man controls every woman. Feminist analysis asks who does work, who controls resources and whose priorities influence decisions. Evidence about one dimension does not settle the others. A household can divide visible tasks fairly while leaving planning or major decisions unequally shared.

D1

Define patriarchy without making a claim about every individual.

D2

Identify three different dimensions of family inequality.

Making domestic work visible

Ann Oakley's research helped treat housework as work worthy of sociological investigation. Counting only paid employment misses labour that sustains daily life. Completing a task differs from taking responsibility for noticing, planning and organising it. Emotional support also requires effort. Investigating these activities can reveal contributions that family members or researchers otherwise overlook.

D3

Why was treating housework as work sociologically significant?

D4

Distinguish doing a task from carrying its mental load.

Socialisation, resources and change

Repeated expectations can make gendered responsibilities appear natural. Resource differences may also affect bargaining power or the practical ability to alter an arrangement. Yet norms are contested and responsibilities can change. Examine paid work, time, preferences and available alternatives together. Feminist approaches differ over the central cause and remedy; L013 develops those disagreements.

D5

Explain how gender socialisation could reproduce an unequal division.

D6

Why should researchers examine choices and constraints together?

Apply the evidence

Fictional case: Maya and Leo both work for pay. They alternate cooking, but Maya organises appointments, tracks supplies and adjusts her hours when care is needed. Leo normally decides how shared savings are used. Maya proposes a planning rota and equal discussion of major spending. Neither person's behaviour is explained by biology, and the case makes no claim about all women or men.



Observe the visible activity and identify what further evidence is needed. This photograph also appears on slide 19.

A1

Describe what is visible in the photograph. What further evidence would be needed to apply this lesson's concepts?

Apply the case evidence

Fictional case: Maya and Leo both work for pay. They alternate cooking, but Maya organises appointments, tracks supplies and adjusts her hours when care is needed. Leo normally decides how shared savings are used. Maya proposes a planning rota and equal discussion of major spending. Neither person's behaviour is explained by biology, and the case makes no claim about all women or men.

A2

Identify two dimensions of inequality in the case and explain each.

A3

Explain what the proposed rota might change and what it would not automatically change.

Optional scaffold: Name the concept → select a precise case detail → explain the connection → state what the detail cannot establish. Rehearse aloud, then write independently.

Challenge and judge

Make a precise claim, connect it to evidence and state its limits.

C1

Design one appropriate evidence question for workload and one for power.

C2

Improve: “Maya does more planning because women naturally care more.”

Prove and improve

Complete retrieval, then write independently for eight minutes.

P1

Explain two ways gender inequality may occur within families. [6 marks]

P2

Identify the two points in your response. Improve one missing explanation or example.

P3

Return to R3. Give a qualified judgement and identify one piece of evidence still needed.

Prepare for Lesson 13

Read the three short passages and answer the preparation questions.

Liberal feminist emphasis

Liberal feminist approaches focus on removing discrimination and widening equal rights and opportunities. Education, fair workplace practices and shared domestic responsibility may improve family relationships. This does not mean assuming equality already exists. A limitation to investigate is whether formal rights or individual negotiation are enough when access to money, time and care remains unequal.

Two connected concepts

Liberal feminism: An approach emphasising equal rights, opportunities and reform of discriminatory practices. Marxist feminism: An approach connecting gender inequality with capitalist relations and unpaid labour.

A question to bring

Link a liberal feminist diagnosis to one proposed change. If discriminatory expectations and unequal opportunities constrain women, reform workplace practices, education or shared care arrangements. Explain how the reform addresses the diagnosed barrier.

F1

Summarise the main idea in the first passage in one or two sentences.

F2

Define liberal feminism and give an original fictional example.

F3

What evidence would you need to test the opening claim? Retrieve two current-lesson concepts tomorrow and next week.

Retrieval check for self study

Complete before the extended response. Cover the key while answering. One mark per correct answer; total 6. Correct insecure ideas and retry tomorrow. Extended writing needs teacher review.

Q1

Which meaning best fits patriarchy?

A A pattern of social organisation in which men hold disproportionate power. B Support for another person's needs without direct payment. C Processes through which choices are made and priorities set.

Q2

Which meaning best fits domestic labour?

A Processes through which choices are made and priorities set. B Work involved in maintaining a household and meeting everyday needs. C Combining paid employment with substantial unpaid domestic work.

Q3

Which meaning best fits mental load?

A Learning and negotiating expectations associated with gender. B A pattern of social organisation in which men hold disproportionate power. C Work of anticipating, planning and coordinating everyday responsibilities.

Q4

Which meaning best fits resource control?

A Capacity to determine how money or other resources are used. B Attention to how social inequalities combine and shape specific experiences. C A socially expected pattern of behaviour associated with gender.

Q5

An adult does half the visible chores. Does this establish equal power?

A Yes: chore counts measure every form of equality. B No: planning, resources and decisions also require evidence. C The question can be answered from a person's appearance alone.

Q6

What can the supplied fictional case establish?

A It proves what all UK families do. B It illustrates a mechanism to examine with further evidence. C It establishes a causal law without further evidence.

Self marking key

Q1: A. Q2: B. Q3: C. Q4: A. Q5: B. Q6: B.