

Knowledge organiser

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

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Is the family patriarchal?

Concept	Meaning
Patriarchy	A pattern of social organisation in which men hold disproportionate power.
Feminism	Diverse approaches that analyse gender inequalities and seek their reduction.
Gender	Socially organised meanings, expectations and identities associated with sex categories.
Gender role	A socially expected pattern of behaviour associated with gender.
Domestic labour	Work involved in maintaining a household and meeting everyday needs.
Unpaid care	Support for another person's needs without direct payment.
Division of labour	Allocation of tasks and responsibilities between people.
Mental load	Work of anticipating, planning and coordinating everyday responsibilities.

Socialisation, resources and change

Concept	Meaning
Emotional work	Effort used to manage feelings and sustain relationships.
Decision-making	Processes through which choices are made and priorities set.
Resource control	Capacity to determine how money or other resources are used.
Dependence	Reliance on another person for resources or support.
Gender socialisation	Learning and negotiating expectations associated with gender.
Double burden	Combining paid employment with substantial unpaid domestic work.
Negotiation	Discussion through which arrangements may be agreed or changed.
Intersectionality	Attention to how social inequalities combine and shape specific experiences.

Worked explanation

Maya's coordination and adjustments show unequal responsibility beyond cooking. Leo's control of savings indicates decision-making or resource power. Explain these separately.

Avoid these confusions

Oakley is credited with research on housework without inventing a current prevalence estimate. Patriarchy is a structural concept, not a universal statement about individuals. Emotional work here concerns relationships; it is not automatically the same as paid emotional labour. Mental load is a contemporary descriptive term. Do not invite personal disclosure or infer gender identity from appearance.

Retrieve later

Tomorrow: define patriarchy and feminism. In one week: explain a case mechanism and one limit without notes.