

Do feminists agree about the family?

AQA A Level Sociology 7192 • Families & Households • L013 • 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? Define patriarchy as a structural concept. A pattern of social organisation in which men hold disproportionate power. Why are doing and planning different kinds of work? Completing a task differs from noticing, coordinating and taking responsibility for it. Why does pooled income not establish equal power? Control of spending and influence over decisions may remain unequal.

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

R1

Define patriarchy as a structural concept.

R2

Why are doing and planning different kinds of work?

R3

Starting judgement: “All feminist explanations identify the same cause of family inequality.”
Explain your view.

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.

D1

Link a liberal feminist diagnosis to one proposed change.

D2

Why should liberal feminism not be described as believing equality is complete?

Marxist and radical emphases

Marxist feminists connect unpaid domestic labour with the economic organisation of capitalism. Benston's work directs attention to domestic production that is not paid through the market. Radical feminists place patriarchy at the centre of analysis, asking how men may benefit from women's labour or dependence. Delphy and Leonard's materialist feminist account examines family exploitation; theoretical labels overlap and should not erase their specific argument.

D3

Explain a Marxist feminist connection between unpaid work and capitalism.

D4

How does a radical feminist focus differ from a class-only explanation?

Difference within feminism

The approaches can agree that unequal domestic labour matters while disagreeing about its main cause and the change required. Intersectionality, associated with Crenshaw, challenges analysis that treats gender independently of race and other structures. Class resources, racism, disability and migration conditions can alter constraints and options. Categories do not mechanically determine an individual's experiences; investigate their interaction.

D5

How could two feminists support care reform for different reasons?

D6

Explain why an intersectional analysis is more than adding a list of disadvantages.

Apply the evidence

Fictional policy discussion: A college employer proposes predictable hours and equal access to promotion. A campaign seeks publicly organised affordable care and a fairer distribution of unpaid work. A women's organisation asks who controls money and whose decisions dominate at home. A fourth speaker asks whether reforms reach women facing racialised job barriers or inaccessible services. These are proposals for analysis, not descriptions of existing legal rights.



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 policy discussion: A college employer proposes predictable hours and equal access to promotion. A campaign seeks publicly organised affordable care and a fairer distribution of unpaid work. A women's organisation asks who controls money and whose decisions dominate at home. A fourth speaker asks whether reforms reach women facing racialised job barriers or inaccessible services. These are proposals for analysis, not descriptions of existing legal rights.

A2

Connect the first three proposals to feminist emphases, explaining the connection.

A3

Explain how the fourth speaker changes the evaluation of reform.

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

Choose two approaches and compare their explanation of unpaid care directly.

C2

Improve: “Feminists think all women have exactly the same family experience.”

Prove and improve

Complete retrieval, then write independently for eight minutes.

P1

Explain two differences between feminist approaches to the family. [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 14

Read the three short passages and answer the preparation questions.

Giddens: negotiated intimacy

Giddens's pure relationship is sustained through what the relationship provides to the people involved, rather than only through external tradition. Pure does not mean morally superior or conflict-free. Confluent love is contingent: continuation depends on an ongoing relationship rather than an unconditional promise of permanence. Negotiation may create opportunities for equality, but the model does not establish that every relationship already operates this way.

Two connected concepts

Individualisation: A process in which people must increasingly construct and manage their own biographies. Detraditionalisation: Weakening of the taken-for-granted authority of inherited traditions.

A question to bring

Define the pure relationship and correct one possible misunderstanding. It is sustained through the rewards of the relationship itself. Pure does not mean perfect, morally better, necessarily unmarried or free from inequality.

F1

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

F2

Define individualisation 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 liberal feminism?

A Changes to rules or practices within existing institutions. B An approach emphasising equal rights, opportunities and reform of discriminatory practices. C Appropriation of another group's work or benefits within unequal relations.

Q2

Which meaning best fits reform?

A A relationship organised around work, resources and their distribution. B A social position connected with economic resources and relations. C Changes to rules or practices within existing institutions.

Q3

Which meaning best fits social reproduction?

A Activities and relations that sustain people and social arrangements. B Socially meaningful cultural identification and group belonging. C An approach connecting gender inequality with capitalist relations and unpaid labour.

Q4

Which meaning best fits intersectionality?

A An approach connecting gender inequality with capitalist relations and unpaid labour. B Analysis of how structures of inequality interact in specific experiences. C Changes to rules or practices within existing institutions.

Q5

Three approaches support changing unpaid care. Must their explanations be identical?

A Yes: agreement on an issue means one theory. B No: diagnoses and proposed routes to change may differ. 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 establishes a causal law without further evidence. C It illustrates a mechanism to examine with further evidence.

Self marking key

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