

Knowledge organiser

AQA A Level Sociology 7192 • Families & Households • L013 • v1.0

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Do feminists agree about the family?

Concept	Meaning
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.
Radical feminism	An approach treating patriarchy and male power as central sources of women's oppression.
Patriarchy	Social arrangements giving men disproportionate power.
Capitalism	Production for profit under predominantly private ownership.
Reform	Changes to rules or practices within existing institutions.
Structural change	Alteration of the institutions or relations producing a pattern.
Unpaid labour	Work performed without direct wages, including domestic activity.

Difference within feminism

Concept	Meaning
Social reproduction	Activities and relations that sustain people and social arrangements.
Exploitation	Appropriation of another group's work or benefits within unequal relations.
Material relation	A relationship organised around work, resources and their distribution.
Equal opportunity	Comparable practical access to valued positions and choices.
Intersectionality	Analysis of how structures of inequality interact in specific experiences.
Ethnicity	Socially meaningful cultural identification and group belonging.
Class	A social position connected with economic resources and relations.
Within-group difference	Variation among people who share one social category.

Worked explanation

Equal access fits liberal reform; reorganising care connects to Marxist feminist questions about unpaid labour; scrutiny of male control connects to radical feminist concerns. Proposals can overlap, so reward justified links rather than rigid labels.

Avoid these confusions

The three approaches are introductory emphases, not sealed categories. Benston's 1969 argument is historical. Delphy and Leonard are identified as materialist feminists; their work is relevant to patriarchal exploitation without being reduced to a simple label. Intersectionality is not an additive checklist. Policy examples are invented, not current legal guidance.

Retrieve later

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