

Knowledge organiser

AQA A Level Sociology 7192 • Families & Households • L015 • v1.0

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

Can personal relationships explain family life?

Concept	Meaning
Personal life	A perspective examining meaningful relationships, attachments and lived connections.
Connectedness	The ways a person's life is bound up with other people.
Relationality	Understanding people through relationships rather than as isolated units.
Embeddedness	Being situated within ongoing relationships and social contexts.
Memory	Recollections through which people understand past and present connections.
Biography	A life's pattern and account through time.
Family practices	Everyday activities through which people enact family relationships.
Displaying family	Making family relationships intelligible and recognisable to relevant others.

Boundaries and evidence

Concept	Meaning
Recognition	Acknowledgement of a relationship or claim as meaningful.
Chosen kin	People treated as family through significant commitment beyond biological ties.
Obligation	A felt or socially recognised responsibility to others.
Ambivalence	Coexistence of different or conflicting feelings.
Meaning	The significance people give to an action or relationship.
Interpretive approach	An approach seeking to understand the meanings attached to social action.
Boundary	A distinction about who or what is included in a category.
Material condition	A resource or practical circumstance shaping what people can do.

Worked explanation

The calls and shared cooking show relationships extending beyond co-residence. The recipe connects present practice with remembered family history; its meaning is supplied by the case rather than inferred from a photograph.

Avoid these confusions

Smart's 2007 personal life perspective is relational, not an assertion that structures do not matter. Finch's displaying families concerns recognition of relationships, not merely publicity. Chosen kin does not imply that every meaningful connection is chosen. Nia's case is invented; no real bereavement or relationship disclosure is requested.

Retrieve later

Tomorrow: define personal life and connectedness. In one week: explain a case mechanism and one limit without notes.