

Knowledge organiser

AQA A Level Sociology 7192 • Families & Households • L023 • v1.0

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How do families connect across households?

Concept	Meaning
Reconstituted family	A family formed through repartnering where at least one partner has a child from an earlier relationship.
Extended family	Kin beyond a parent-child unit, such as grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins.
Step-parent tie	A relationship between a parent's partner and that parent's child, distinct from parenthood by birth or adoption.
Kinship	Socially recognised connections through descent, partnership or other acknowledged family ties.
Co-residence	Living at the same address; it does not establish every meaningful relationship.
Dispersed kin	Relatives connected across separate households rather than all living together.
Negotiated obligation	A responsibility whose meaning and allocation are worked through by those involved.
Reciprocity	Giving and receiving support, which need not occur equally or at the same time.

Use statistics without losing relationships

Concept	Meaning
Care network	The people and relationships through which care is organised.
Boundary	A line used to define who or what is included in a category or arrangement.
Life-course diversity	Variation in arrangements within people's lives as circumstances change.
Family practice	An activity through which family ties are maintained.
Multi-generational household	A household combining generations beyond a single parent-child pair, under a stated definition.
Cross-household tie	A relationship connecting people who live at different addresses.
Resource constraint	A limit arising from available time, money, housing or other means.
Qualified judgement	A conclusion that identifies the conditions and limits of its claim.

Worked explanation

Beth's step-parent relationship illustrates reconstitution; Asha's grandparent tie illustrates extension. These connections coexist across more than one address.

Avoid these confusions

ONS Census 2021 England and Wales, release 5 March 2024: 8.8% of dependent children lived in step-families. Do not relabel the figure as a percentage of families or a current UK estimate. The release's step-family definition includes lone step-parents and uses relationship information; it is not identical to the lesson's simple reconstituted-couple definition. Its reworked 2011 tables use a comparable methodology, but previously published 2011 step-family tables are not directly comparable. Larger-household relationship information limits classification. Extended family does not always mean co-residence. No category establishes affection, conflict or equality on its own.

Retrieve later

Tomorrow: define reconstituted family and extended family. In one week: explain a case mechanism and one limit without notes.