

How do families connect across households?

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

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

Connect & Check → Share → Present → Apply → Recall & Review. Distinguish reconstituted and extended ties, map care across households and evaluate residence-based categories. Use fictional examples; no personal family disclosure is required.

Recall and connect

Missed the preparation? Why does one co-resident parent not mean no wider support? Other parents, relatives, friends and services can provide care across addresses. Why is a family category not a complete biography? It describes an arrangement at a point in time rather than every route and transition. What does a structural explanation add to a description of choice? It examines how resources and institutions make options easier or harder to realise.

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

R1

Why does one co-resident parent not mean no wider support?

R2

Why is a family category not a complete biography?

R3

Starting judgement: “Everyone who matters to a family must live under the same roof.” Explain your view.

Two dimensions can overlap

Reconstitution concerns relationships formed through repartnering involving children from an earlier relationship. Extension concerns kin beyond a parent-child unit. They are different dimensions, so one family can have both step relationships and important grandparent ties. Neither requires all meaningful members to share an address. ONS categories serve a statistical purpose and use explicit rules; personal definitions may include additional ties. Explain the rule being used before deciding who belongs to a category.

D1

Distinguish reconstitution from extension.

D2

Give an example that fits both dimensions without assuming one address.

Map care across addresses

Care can move through visits, transport, money, messages and shared decisions. A step-parent may take on some responsibilities while another parent remains involved elsewhere.

Grandparents and other kin may offer support or receive it, with roles changing across the life course. Personal-life concepts from Smart and Finch help examine connectedness and how family is displayed to others. Obligations are not automatically agreed or equal: working hours, distance, housing and power affect what people can do and how responsibilities are negotiated.

D3

Why might obligations need negotiation in a care network?

D4

How could distance affect reciprocity without ending connectedness?

Use statistics without losing relationships

ONS Census 2021 analysis reports that 8.8% of dependent children in England and Wales lived in step-families. The denominator is dependent children, not all families. Its step-family rules can include lone step-parents, so the statistical category is broader than a simple repartnered-couple example. A usual-residence measure cannot map every cross-household tie or tell us how care is experienced. Combine a clear population measure with appropriately designed accounts of practices, without treating a selected fictional network as evidence of prevalence.

D5

Interpret the 8.8% figure using its source boundaries.

D6

What extra evidence is needed to move from household categories to care practices?

Apply the evidence

Fictional care map: Nia lives with her parent Arun and Arun's partner Beth. Beth is described as Nia's step-parent. Nia also spends time with her other parent, Lee, at a nearby address.

Grandparent Asha lives separately and helps with school travel; Arun arranges Asha's shopping when needed. Beth's changing work shifts sometimes require the adults to renegotiate travel. A school form lists only people at Nia's main address. The map describes an invented network, not a representative family.



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 care map: Nia lives with her parent Arun and Arun's partner Beth. Beth is described as Nia's step-parent. Nia also spends time with her other parent, Lee, at a nearby address.

Grandparent Asha lives separately and helps with school travel; Arun arranges Asha's shopping when needed. Beth's changing work shifts sometimes require the adults to renegotiate travel. A school form lists only people at Nia's main address. The map describes an invented network, not a representative family.

A2

Identify reconstituted and extended relationships in the care map.

A3

Explain a limitation of the school form and a constraint on care.

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

Using this case and one earlier lesson, judge how well household categories explain family diversity.

C2

Improve: Reconstituted and extended families are separate boxes that never overlap.

Prove and improve

Complete retrieval, then write independently for eight minutes.

P1

Explain two limitations of using co-residence alone to understand family relationships. [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 24

Read the three short passages and answer the preparation questions.

Domestic labour

Housework and care are activities needed to maintain daily life. Paid employment and unpaid domestic labour are distinct, but both use time and effort. Begin with tasks such as preparing meals, cleaning, arranging appointments and caring for others.

Tasks and responsibility

Counting who performs a task is useful, but planning and remembering can also matter. In a fictional household, one adult may cook while another decides what is needed, buys ingredients and organises the weekly schedule. Visible tasks and responsibility are related but distinct.

Compare explanations

Paid-work hours, income, social expectations and negotiation may affect how domestic work is shared. A division that looks equal by task count may be unequal in time, difficulty or responsibility. A sound explanation needs a stated measure and evidence about the process.

F1

Distinguish paid employment from unpaid domestic labour.

F2

Give a fictional example distinguishing a visible task from organising responsibility.

F3

Suggest a measure for comparing domestic labour and one limitation. Retrieve two diversity 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 reconstituted family?

A Relatives connected across separate households rather than all living together. B A line used to define who or what is included in a category or arrangement. C A family formed through repartnering where at least one partner has a child from an earlier relationship.

Q2

Which meaning best fits co-residence?

A Living at the same address; it does not establish every meaningful relationship. B A line used to define who or what is included in a category or arrangement. C A relationship connecting people who live at different addresses.

Q3

Which meaning best fits reciprocity?

A A household combining generations beyond a single parent-child pair, under a stated definition. B Giving and receiving support, which need not occur equally or at the same time. C A family formed through repartnering where at least one partner has a child from an earlier relationship.

Q4

Which meaning best fits life-course diversity?

A A conclusion that identifies the conditions and limits of its claim. B Socially recognised connections through descent, partnership or other acknowledged family ties. C Variation in arrangements within people's lives as circumstances change.

Q5

Can a family have step relationships and important extended-kin ties at the same time?

A No: the categories describe mutually exclusive dimensions. B Yes: repartnering and extension describe different aspects of relationships. C The question can be answered from a person's appearance alone.

Q6

What can the supplied fictional case establish?

A It illustrates a mechanism to examine with further evidence. B It proves what all UK families do. C It establishes a causal law without further evidence.

Self marking key

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