

L024 Domestic labour - TeacherGuide

AQA A Level Sociology 7192 • Families & Households • Couples • 90 minutes

Purpose and sequence

Explain how domestic labour is organised and evaluate sociological explanations of gendered housework, care and responsibility.

Focus	Detailed notes
0-10 min	Connect & Check: retrieve theory and core vocabulary.
10-35 min	Explicit teaching: concepts, perspectives and studies.
35-55 min	Visual evidence/source interpretation.
55-75 min	Route tasks and paragraph writing.
75-90 min	Exam practice, feedback and recall review.

Sociological background

Young & Willmott: Symmetrical family thesis: more companionate marriage, shared leisure and gradual movement toward joint roles. Evaluation: Useful for analysing change, but “more shared” is not the same as equal responsibility.

Ann Oakley: Challenged the symmetry claim: housework remained gendered and routine domestic labour still fell mainly to women. Evaluation: Powerful for exposing hidden inequality, but must be updated using contemporary evidence.

Jonathan Gershuny: Lagged adaptation: men may increase domestic work as women’s employment rises, but household practice changes slowly. Evaluation: Explains change without assuming full equality; still needs evidence about care and mental load.

Oriel Sullivan: Time-use studies can show gradual change in men’s participation, but measurement choices matter. Evaluation: Encourages methodological evaluation: minutes do not capture responsibility alone.

Misconceptions

Do not allow learners to treat a pattern as a causal explanation. Prompt them to state the mechanism and test it against evidence.

Sources: AQA specification:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/a-level/sociology-7192/specification/subject-content/topics-in-sociology>; ONS Time Use in the UK 2023:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/incomeandwealth/bulletins/timeuseintheuk/23septemberto1october2023>; ONS Families and the Labour Market:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/>

articles/familiesandthelabourmarketengland/2021; British Social Attitudes gender roles:
<https://natcen.ac.uk/publications/british-social-attitudes-40-gender-roles>; AQA assessment materials:
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/a-level/sociology-7192/assessment-resources>