

L025 Equality in domestic labour - Workbook

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

Connect & check

Define the core concept and identify one relevant perspective before the new teaching begins.

Focus	Detailed notes
Key terms	equality, symmetry, time-use evidence, dual burden, attitudes and behaviour, validity, household variation
Theory reminder	Liberal feminism: legal equality and women's paid work can shift expectations toward shared roles.; Radical feminism: patriarchy may persist through invisible responsibility even where tasks are shared.; Postmodern/personal life: household arrangements may be more diverse, negotiated and individualised, but choice is unevenly distributed.
Study focus	Young & Willmott; Oakley; Gershuny and Sullivan; BSA/attitude evidence

Study organiser

Young & Willmott: Optimistic change thesis: family life becomes more symmetrical over time. Evaluation: Shows a route to equality but may overstate the depth of change.

Oakley: Domestic labour remained deeply gendered despite changing public roles. Evaluation: Challenges a simple progress narrative.

Gershuny and Sullivan: Men's contribution can rise over time, especially where women's paid employment increases. Evaluation: Trend evidence needs caution: equality depends on what is counted.

BSA/attitude evidence: Attitudes to gender roles may become more egalitarian. Evaluation: Attitudes do not always match behaviour; social desirability may influence responses.

Apply

Choose ACCESS, SCAFFOLD, CORE or STRETCH. Use the fictional case and write a developed paragraph. Include one concept, one named study and one evaluative sentence.

ACCESS: _____

SCAFFOLD: _____

CORE: _____

STRETCH: _____

Exam practice

Applying material from Item A, analyse two reasons why evidence on domestic labour may lead sociologists to different conclusions. [10 marks]

Plan: point 1 / point 2 / evidence / evaluation.

Evaluate the view that domestic labour has become equal in contemporary couples. [30 marks]

30-mark judgement plan: argument, counter-argument, evidence, conclusion.

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>