

# L027 Decision-making and power - 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       | power, agenda-setting, resources, dependency, patriarchy, negotiation, decision domains                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Theory reminder | Feminism: decisions may appear joint while deeper constraints and gender norms shape whose preferences count.; Marxism/socialist feminism: economic resources and paid work can create dependence and unequal bargaining power.; Interactionism: decisions are negotiated through meanings and routines, but negotiations are not always equal. |
| Study focus     | Edgell; Pahl & Vogler; Barrett & McIntosh; Feminist critiques                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## Study organiser

Edgell: Major decisions may be more likely to be taken by men, especially where they control economic resources. Evaluation: Useful for visible decision-making, but may miss agenda-setting power.

Pahl & Vogler: Money-management systems reveal different forms of financial control and household power. Evaluation: Connects decisions to access to money, not only attitudes.

Barrett & McIntosh: Financial dependence can limit options and reinforce gender inequality. Evaluation: Shows structural power, though contemporary employment patterns vary.

Feminist critiques: Power includes who defines the issue, whose time matters and whose needs become “family needs”. Evaluation: Adds depth beyond counting decisions.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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STRETCH: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Exam practice

Applying material from Item A, analyse two ways power may be hidden in couple decision-making. [10 marks]

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

Evaluate the view that decision-making in couples has become equal. [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>