

L029 Domestic abuse - DepthNotes

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

Depth teaching notes

This resource deliberately reteaches theory and named studies so learners are not expected to rely on prior memory.

Feminism: domestic abuse is connected to gendered power and control, not simply individual conflict.

Interactionism: abuse can be hidden through meanings, fear, secrecy and normalisation in everyday life.

Structural approaches: economic dependence, housing, immigration status or care responsibilities can constrain options.

Dobash & Dobash: Domestic violence can be understood within patriarchal power relations. Evaluation: Important but must be applied carefully and not treated as the only explanation.

Radical feminist explanations: Violence and coercive control may enforce gendered dominance. Evaluation: Strong on power, but evaluation should consider variation and intersectionality.

Evidence and reporting limits: Police/crime statistics undercount hidden abuse because reporting is shaped by fear, stigma and dependence. Evaluation: Methodological evaluation is central, not optional.

Coercive control framework: Control may involve isolation, monitoring, money, threats and everyday restriction. Evaluation: Helps learners understand abuse beyond incidents of physical violence.

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>