

L030: Childhood as a social construction – Knowledge organiser

Key concepts, studies and exam links.

Concept / study	What it means	Exam use
Core idea	Childhood is not only a biological age category; it is also a social status shaped by norms, law and institutions.	Use as AO1 and to frame explanation.
Core idea	Learners distinguish chronological age from socially constructed expectations, rights and restrictions.	Use as AO1 and to frame explanation.
Core idea	Wagg and Pilcher help show that childhood varies across place and period rather than being universal.	Use as AO1 and to frame explanation.
Wagg	Childhood differs across societies and periods; it is not a single natural experience.	Use to evidence or evaluate a claim.
Pilcher	Modern childhood in Western societies is often seen as a separate, protected life stage.	Use to evidence or evaluate a claim.
Benedict	Cross-cultural comparison can reveal different expectations about obedience, work and responsibility.	Use to evidence or evaluate a claim.
Functionalist	Childhood socialisation prepares children for adult roles and social order.	Use to compare explanations.
Feminist	Childhood can reproduce gender expectations and unequal domestic preparation.	Use to compare explanations.
Personal life	Children are active family members whose relationships and meanings matter.	Use to compare explanations.