

L031: Historical childhood – Knowledge organiser

Key concepts, studies and exam links.

Concept / study	What it means	Exam use
Core idea	Historical childhood is debated because sources are partial and often reveal elite adult viewpoints.	Use as AO1 and to frame explanation.
Core idea	Ariès argued that childhood as a distinct stage was weak in medieval Europe; critics question the evidence and interpretation.	Use as AO1 and to frame explanation.
Core idea	Learners separate evidence, interpretation and generalisation before judging change.	Use as AO1 and to frame explanation.
Ariès	Used historical representations to argue that childhood was not clearly separated from adulthood in medieval society.	Use to evidence or evaluate a claim.
Pollock	Criticised the idea that parents lacked affection, using diaries and letters to show continuity of care.	Use to evidence or evaluate a claim.
Shorter	Linked modern childhood to growing parental affection and family privacy, but may overstate a simple progress story.	Use to evidence or evaluate a claim.
March of progress	Childhood has become more protected, valued and education-centred.	Use to compare explanations.
Conflict view	Historical change may replace one form of control with another and vary by class.	Use to compare explanations.
Methodological lens	Images, diaries and laws reveal different things and cannot be read as neutral truth.	Use to compare explanations.