

L032: Has childhood improved? – Learner workbook

Evaluate whether childhood has improved by weighing protection, education, inequality and adult control.

Core knowledge

- Improvement depends on criteria: protection, happiness, autonomy, opportunity, equality or security.
- March-of-progress arguments emphasise rights, welfare and education; conflict arguments highlight control and inequality.
- Learners make a judgement rather than listing advantages and disadvantages.

Studies and evidence

- March of progress: Childhood has become more protected through schooling, welfare and legal rights.
- Gittins: Adult power can continue through age patriarchy even within child-centred families.
- Postman: Argued that media may blur boundaries between adult and child knowledge.

Perspective comparison

- Functionalist: Protection and education can help children develop safely into adult roles.
- Marxist/conflict: Improvement is uneven where poverty and class shape life chances.
- Feminist: Childhood improvements may differ by gender, care expectations and safety.

Route task

Route	Your work
Access	Access: identify criteria for improvement from examples. Response: _____ _____ _____
Core	Core: build a two-sided argument using evidence. Response: _____ _____ _____
Stretch	Stretch: develop a criterion-led judgement that changes by social group. Response: _____ _____ _____

Exam practice

Evaluate the view that childhood has improved in modern society. [20/30-mark planning]

Plan your answer: claim – evidence – mechanism – evaluation – judgement.

WWW / EBI reflection

WWW: _____

EBI: _____