

L034: Age patriarchy – Knowledge organiser

Key concepts, studies and exam links.

Concept / study	What it means	Exam use
Core idea	Age patriarchy describes structured adult power over children's lives, decisions, movement and resources.	Use as AO1 and to frame explanation.
Core idea	Adult control can be protective, disciplinary, unequal or negotiated.	Use as AO1 and to frame explanation.
Core idea	Learners distinguish dependence from powerlessness and apply children's agency carefully.	Use as AO1 and to frame explanation.
Gittins	Children occupy a subordinate position within adult-controlled family structures.	Use to evidence or evaluate a claim.
Firestone	Radical critique of adult power sees childhood as a site of dependence and control.	Use to evidence or evaluate a claim.
Mayall	Children can be understood as social actors, not only adults-in-the-making.	Use to evidence or evaluate a claim.
Conflict view	Adult power can limit children through rules, space and dependency.	Use to compare explanations.
Functionalist	Some adult authority may be necessary for care, safety and socialisation.	Use to compare explanations.
Social action	Children interpret, negotiate and resist rules within limits.	Use to compare explanations.