

L034: Age patriarchy – Teacher guide

Teacher-facing notes, misconceptions, assessment and model guidance.

Lesson intent

- Explain age patriarchy and evaluate adult control, protection, dependence and children's agency.
- The lesson explicitly reteaches the relevant sociological lens before asking learners to apply it.

Sociological substance

- Age patriarchy describes structured adult power over children's lives, decisions, movement and resources.
- Adult control can be protective, disciplinary, unequal or negotiated.
- Learners distinguish dependence from powerlessness and apply children's agency carefully.
- Gittins: Children occupy a subordinate position within adult-controlled family structures.
- Firestone: Radical critique of adult power sees childhood as a site of dependence and control.
- Mayall: Children can be understood as social actors, not only adults-in-the-making.

Misconceptions

- Do not accept a pattern as proof of a cause.
- Do not allow a named sociologist to substitute for mechanism.
- Prompt learners to consider whose childhood is represented in the evidence.

Assessment guidance

- Analyse two ways adults may exercise power over children. [10 marks]
- Look for accurate concept use, precise application, developed mechanism and qualified judgement.