

L034: Age patriarchy – Learner workbook

Explain age patriarchy and evaluate adult control, protection, dependence and children's agency.

Core knowledge

- 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.

Studies and evidence

- 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.

Perspective comparison

- Conflict view: Adult power can limit children through rules, space and dependency.
- Functionalist: Some adult authority may be necessary for care, safety and socialisation.
- Social action: Children interpret, negotiate and resist rules within limits.

Route task

Route	Your work
Access	Access: classify decisions as care, control or mixed. Response: _____ _____ _____
Core	Core: explain age patriarchy using two mechanisms. Response: _____ _____ _____
Stretch	Stretch: evaluate when adult authority is protective and when it becomes unequal power. Response: _____ _____ _____

Exam practice

Analyse two ways adults may exercise power over children. [10 marks]

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

WWW / EBI reflection

WWW: _____

EBI: _____