

L035: Modern childhood – Learner workbook

Evaluate competing explanations of contemporary childhood, including media, consumption, risk and inequality.

Core knowledge

- Modern childhood is often described as child-centred, mediated and risk-aware, but experiences vary strongly.
- Media and consumption can expand knowledge and choice while also creating anxiety, surveillance and inequality.
- Learners link contemporary childhood to evidence, theory and careful evaluation.

Studies and evidence

- Postman: Media may reduce the boundary between childhood and adulthood by widening access to adult knowledge.
- Palmer: Toxic childhood arguments link consumerism, screens and pressure to childhood difficulties.
- Jenks: Childhood is surrounded by adult anxieties about risk and uncertainty.

Perspective comparison

- Postmodern: Childhood identities and family practices are more diverse and media-saturated.
- Conflict view: Risk and consumption are unequal because resources and supervision vary.
- Personal life: Children make meanings through peer, digital and family relationships.

Route task

Route	Your work
Access	Access: identify claims about modern childhood. Response: _____ _____ _____
Core	Core: compare two explanations using a case. Response: _____ _____ _____
Stretch	Stretch: make a nuanced judgement about media, risk and inequality. Response: _____ _____ _____

Exam practice

Evaluate the view that modern childhood is increasingly shaped by media and consumption. [20/30-mark planning]

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

WWW / EBI reflection

WWW: _____

EBI: _____