

Migration, globalisation and families

Distinguish immigration, emigration and net migration, then explain how migration and globalisation shape family practices, care and inequality.

Core learning

- Migration changes family life through movement, separation, reunion, remittances and transnational care.
- Net migration is immigration minus emigration; it does not tell us who moves, why they move, or how family life changes.
- Globalisation can stretch family relationships across borders, but policy, class, gender and legal status shape who can maintain those ties.

Concepts, studies and perspectives

- Transnational families: Families can maintain care, emotional support and responsibility across national borders through visits, money, communication and kin networks.
- Global care chains: Care work can be reorganised internationally, often connecting migration, gender and class inequality.
- ONS evidence lens: Migration data are useful for population change, but cannot directly show lived family relationships.
- Functionalist question: How does migration affect population structure, labour needs and social integration?
- Feminist question: Who does care work when family members migrate, and how is that gendered?
- Marxist question: How do labour markets and global inequality shape movement and family dependence?
- Personal life question: How do families actively sustain belonging, intimacy and obligation across distance?

Learning route

- Access: define immigration, emigration and net migration using examples.
- Core: explain two mechanisms linking migration and family change.
- Stretch: evaluate how policy, class and gender limit a simple globalisation argument.

Application workspace

Explain one mechanism, apply one piece of evidence and add one evaluation point.

WWW / EBI reflection

WWW: _____

EBI: _____

Source / accuracy note

Source note: ONS long-term international migration provisional estimates, year ending December 2024.