

Synoptic challenge

Connect theories, evidence and state policy across the Families module and build a sustained evaluative argument.

Core learning

- Synoptic answers select from across the module; they do not unload every topic remembered.
- Strong responses build a line of argument using theory, evidence, application and evaluation together.
- A judgement is strongest when it explains the conditions under which an explanation is more or less convincing.

Concepts, studies and perspectives

- Theory transfer: Functionalism, feminism, Marxism, New Right, postmodernism and personal life can be compared across family diversity, childhood, couples, demography and policy.
- Evidence selection: Relevant evidence is selected because it tests the question, not because it is easy to remember.
- Judgement criteria: Use criteria such as equality, power, choice, care, resources, validity and representativeness.
- Functionalism: What contribution does the family make to social stability and socialisation?
- Feminism: How are gendered power, care and inequality produced or challenged?
- Marxism: How do class, capitalism and resources shape family life?
- Personal life: How do people construct meaningful relationships beyond formal family categories?

Original assessment task

Evaluate the view that state policy is the main force shaping family life today. [20 marks]

Plan: define the concept, select mechanisms, add evidence, evaluate each point.

Source / accuracy note

Source note: This is an original Reach for the Star synoptic practice lesson. It uses fictional items and does not reproduce AQA examination questions.