

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?

Concept	Meaning	Exam use
Mechanism	The process connecting cause and outcome	Use it to move beyond description
Differentiated effect	Policy or social change affects groups differently	Use for AO3
Evidence limit	What the data cannot show	Use to qualify judgement
Judgement	A reasoned answer to the question	Use in conclusions and paragraph endings

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.