**Item A:** In functionalist thought, the family is a particularly important institution as it is the ‘basic building block’ of society which performs the crucial functions of socialising the young and meeting the emotional needs of its members. Stable families underpin social order and economic stability. However other theories argue it understates the negative aspects of the family and some believe it presents an outdated view of the family in modern society.

**Using the material from item A and your wider knowledge, evaluate the contribution of Functionalism to our understanding of the family (20)**

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| --- | --- |
| **Introduction (needs to provide an overview of how functionalism sees the family and views you will include plus opposing arguments):** | |
| **Functionalist views of the family (possible suggestion for structure):** | **Evaluation of Functionalist views:** |
| **Where does the nuclear family emerge from:** |  |
| **Functions of the family:** |  |
| **Gender roles:** |  |
| **Conclusion (weigh up whether this theory adequately explains families in the UK):** | |