**Essay plan: Is the nuclear family still dominant?**

Item: In the mid twentieth century, the nuclear family was seen as the most common and also the most desirable family type. This is evidenced in the work of functionalists. Since then there have been many change to families and households in Britain and a greater diversity of family types, so that some sociologists now argue there is no longer a single dominant type of family and even families that may appear nuclear may vary considerably.

**Applying material from the item and your knowledge, evaluate the view that there is no longer a single dominant type of family in Britain today [20 marks]**

Paragraphs in 20 mark questions:

The Sociology sandwich is exactly the same as the burger idea we use for 10 marker, but it needs you to include more analysis/evaluation (using other studies, theories or methodology) to counter the point you are making. Each paragraph should have the elements of this ‘sandwich’ before you move onto your next point.



**Key areas of the question that you need to address:**

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| What does the question want? |
| **Introduction:** needs to address the debate and define key concepts in the question. Provide a brief overview of who would argue there is no longer a dominant family and who would argue that the nuclear family is still dominant. |
| How could you use the **item** (this needs to be referred to at least twice during the essay) |
| What key concepts will need to be included? |

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| **Arguments for the nuclear family being dominant****(Any arguments in this side should be argued against using the other side)** | **Arguments for families being diverse** |
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| Conclusion (is there no longer one dominant family) |

Notes:

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| Factors for the argument | Factors against the argument |
| This is a functionalist and new right argument:* Parsons
* Murdock
* Chester
* Leach
* Amato

You also need to include relevant statistics.Consider how the nuclear family is still regarded as conventional. | This is a broadly postmodern argument that families are now diverse- even if they look nuclear on the outside they will have diverse internal set ups because families don’t follow traditional life courses anymore.* Rapoport and Rapoport
* Wilmott
* Giddens
* Beck
* Studies on differences in ethnicity/class etc.
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