Godalming College - Sociology Department

**AQA A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY**

**PAPER 2 REVISION GUIDE: FAMILY**

**2016/17**



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| **Name** | **Group** | **Set** |

**This guide is designed to cover as much as we are able to anticipate in the Sociology exam in June. It is all necessary.**

**REVISION- WHERE TO START?**

* Make sure all 4 of your Family booklets are complete
* Get out your revision worksheets from the different booklets
* Look over your textbook- do the Quick Check Questions at the end of each topic- your teacher will be able to give you the answers for these.
* Use the checklist in this booklet to complete notes or check off the notes for each topic. This could be in the form of flash cards, written notes or mind maps. TIP- take it a topic at a time- make brief notes first and then develop them. REMEMBER- you already have a lot of revision notes for these different topics- use them as a starting point to tick off what you have already done.
* Practice exam questions, which can be found at the end of this booklet and the end of each of your booklets.

**The exam paper**

Your Paper 2 exam paper will have a range of questions. You will have 1hour to complete this part of the exam (the other hour will include questions for Religion).

**Section A**

**Make sure to go to A2, which are the questions on family.**

**Answer all of the questions**

10 mark question: Outline and explain two ways/reasons/factors/issues

Aim to write two full paragraphs, about one side of A4, that include sociological evidence to support and a tiny bit of evaluation.

10 mark question: ‘Analyse’ – use the item to form your two reasons/ways/factors/issues and use the same advice as above.

20 mark question: Applying Item B and your knowledge evaluate…..

Include a clear introduction and then around three paragraphs that evaluate each other. Come to a conclusion.

**KEY STUDIES TO REVISE (have a look at revision sites to help you with these and your notes from last year). This list is not exhaustive.**

**Functionalism**

* Parsons
* Murdock

**Marxism**

* Engels
* Zaretskey
* Althusser

**Liberal feminist**

* Oakley
* Sue Sharpe
* McRobbie

**Marxist feminist**

* Fran Ansley
* Breughal
* Barrett and McIntosh

**Radical feminists**

* Duncombe and Marsden
* Jesse Bernard
* Firestone
* Greer

**New Right Views**

* Murray
* Dennis

**Gender roles- all of the above plus**

* Young and Wilmott
* Bott
* A couple of studies about dads
* Dobash and Dobash
* Ferri and Smith

**Postmodern- family is now more diverse**

* Alan and Crow
* Rapoport and Rapoport (plus studies that indicate differences of families based on class and ethnicity- could take from education e.g. Sewell)
* Beck and Beck
* Personal life perspective: Smart

**Arguments that the family is still predominately nuclear**

* Robert Chester
* New Right- Murray or Dennis

**Childhood**

* Aries
* Wendy Rogers
* Neil Postman
* Nick Lee

**Revision Checklist**

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| **PERSPECTIVES (Booklet 1)** | | | | |
| **Topic and booklet it is covered in** | **Sub- Topic** | **Possible Revision Activity** | **Revised?**  **Yes/ No** | **Happy with understanding?** |
| **Basic information about the family** | Different family and household types | * Write a definition for each of the following and draw a diagram to illustrate them:   + Nuclear   + Reconstituted   + Vertically extended   + Horizontally extended   + Beanpole   + Cohabiting couple   + Single parent family   + Same sex family   + Single person household   + Shared household * Write a definition for each of these terms:   + Monogamy   + Bigamy   + Polygamy   + Polygyny   + Polyandry   + Arranged marriages |  |  |
| **Functionalism** | A basic understanding of functionalism | * Write up a key term vocab list of words related to Functionalism, including:   + Organic analogy   + Primary Socialisation   + Norms and Values   + Value Consensus   + Social solidarity   + Stabilisation of adult personalities |  |  |
| Murdock | * List Murdock’s 4 functions of the family and explain them. * Write a summary about Murdock’s view that the nuclear family is a universal institution |  |  |
| Parsons | * Identify and explain the 2 basic and irreducible functions of the family according to Parsons. * Identify the gender roles in the family. Including the terms warm bath, instrumental and expressive roles, division of labour. |  |  |
| Criticisms of Functionalism | * Identify 3 ways in which Marxists and Feminists would criticise Functionalists view of the family. (If possible identify studies that would back this criticism up.) |  |  |
| How is Functionalism similar to other perspectives? | * Are there any similarities to Marxism and/or Feminism? |  |  |
| New Right views of the family | How do they approach society | * Explain their view of society |  |  |
|  | View of the family | * Explain their view of the family- including: * Charles Murray * Dennis |  |  |
|  | Criticisms | * Evaluate this view * Compare to Functionalists |  |  |
| **Marxism** | A basic understanding of Marxism | * Write up a key term vocab list of words related to Marxism, including:   + Bourgeoisie   + Proletariat   + Capitalism   + Ideology   + Monogamous nuclear family |  |  |
|  | Engels | * Write a summary of Engels understanding of the family. Key concepts: inheritance, dominance of women. |  |  |
|  | Zaretsky | * Write a summary of Zaretsky’s understanding of the family. Include concepts such as ‘safety valve’, king of the castle, alienation |  |  |
|  | Althusser | * Ideological state apparatus role of the family |  |  |
|  | Criticisms of Marxism | * Identify 3 ways in which Functionalists and Feminists would criticise Marxist view of the family. (If possible identify studies that would back this criticism up.) |  |  |
|  | How is Marxism similar to other perspectives? | * Are there any similarities to Functionalism and/or Feminism? |  |  |
| **Feminism** | A basic understanding of Feminism | * Write up a key term vocab list of words related to Feminism, including:   + Patriarchal   + Domestic labour   + Conjugal roles   + Segregated conjugal roles   + Symmetrical conjugal roles.   + Dual burden hypothesis   + Triple Shift   + Dark side of the family * Write a summary of the following:   + Radical Feminism   + Marxist Feminism   + Liberal Feminism   Then add a study for each. |  |  |
|  | Key studies: | Write up a revision card for each of these studies and any other feminist studies we have covered in class.   * Ann Oakley * Jessie Bernard * Ferri and Smith * Duncombe and Marsden * Breugal * Delphy and Leonard * Millet * Barret and McIntosh |  |  |
|  | Criticisms of Feminism | * Identify 3 ways in which Functionalists and Marxists would criticise Feminist view of the family. (If possible identify studies that would back this criticism up.) |  |  |
|  | How is Feminism similar to other perspectives? | * Are there any similarities to Functionalism and/or Marxism? |  |  |
|  | Domestic violence | * Compare the findings of the ‘Violence in Families’ article (p.20 of theory booklet) to Dobash and Dobash. |  |  |
| **Postmodernism**  (Crosses over with Diversity) | A basic understanding of Postmodernism | * Write a summary of the key ideas of Postmodernism. * Review studies of Alan and Crow, Giddens, Beck and Beck-Gernsheim, Rapoport and Rapoport, and Eversley and Bonerjea. |  |  |
|  | Criticisms of Postmodernism | * How would Functionalists, Marxists and Feminists criticise Postmodernists? |  |  |
|  | Personal life perspective | * Write a brief summary of this view. * Describe how they criticise macro theories such as Functionalism and Marxism. * Include examples of how families have changed e.g. relationships with friends, fictive kin, gay and lesbian ‘chosen families’, pets. |  |  |

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| **FAMILY ROLES AND RELATIONSHIPS (Booklet 2)** | | | | |
| **Topic** | **Sub-topic** | **Possible Revision Activity** | **Revised yes/no?** | **Happy with understanding?** |
| **Roles and Relationships in the family** | **Conjugal role debate**  Key studies you could use:  Elizabeth Bott  Ann Oakley  Jessie Bernard  Ferri and Smith  Dunscombe and Marsden  Dobash and Dobash  Willmott and Young  Parsons  Catherine Hakim  Pahl  Dunne | * Define what is meant by conjugal roles * Make a summary of how each of the theories views gender roles: Functionalism, Marxism, Liberal Feminism, Marxist Feminism, Radical Feminism, Postmodernism. * Create a table with 3 columns. Title one column ‘Conjugal roles are segregated’ and the other one ‘Conjugal roles are symmetrical’, ‘Conjugal roles are now chosen’. Then place the key studies (along with a summary) into the relevant columns. |  |  |
|  | Willmott and Young | * Identify the 4 stages of the family. * What function does the family do that benefits society according to Willmott and Young? |  |  |
|  | Fathers   * Dermott * Thompson | * Using your booklet write a summary of the two studies on revision cards. * On revision cards write down the 4 roles of fathers found by the Equal Opportunities Commission. |  |  |

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| **Childhood (Booklet 3)** | | | | |
| **Topic** | **Sub- Topic** | **Possible Revision Activity** | **Revised?**  **Yes/ No** | **Happy with understanding?** |
| **Childhood** | Social construction | * Explain how childhood can be seen as a social construction. Provide cross cultural and historical examples for this. |  |  |
|  | Key studies | Key Studies:   * Philippe Aries * Lawrence Stone * Wendy Stainton Rogers * Nick Lee * Neil Postman   Write a summary of each of these studies on revision cards.. |  |  |
|  | Cross cultural examples | Provide examples of how childhood varies cross culturally using the following studies:   * Firth * Punch * Holmes * Malinowski |  |  |
|  | Laws | Include examples of laws that protect and control children e.g.   * Children Act 1989 * Children Act 2004 |  |  |
|  | Key debates | Using the evidence above place under the following headings: ‘childhood is still protected’, ‘childhood is disappearing’, ‘families are more child centred’. |  |  |

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| **TRENDS AND DIVERSITY (Booklet 4)** | | | | |
| **Topic** | **Sub- Topic** | **Possible Revision Activity** | **Revised?**  **Yes/ No** | **Happy with understanding?** |
| **Family diversity and trends** | Family diversity- are families diverse or is the nuclear family dominant. | * Write 4 different arguments for why families in the contemporary UK could be seen as diverse. * Write 4 different arguments for why the nuclear family could still be seen as dominant. Think about traditional Functionalist, Marxist and some Feminist ideas. * Write a summary of Robert Chester’s view of the neo conventional family. * Write a summary of the New Right’s perspective of the family (remember to include criticisms), include Amato and Benson. * Write a summary of Rapoport and Rapoport’s study. * Using the Rapoport’s categories of organisational, culture and class diversity link at least 3 studies (which may come from the other side of the course) to illustrate these types of diversity. * Write a summary of Everslea and Bonnerjea’s extra dimension of diversity. * Include a summary of Wilmott’s forms of extended families. |  |  |
|  | Cultural differences | * Make a summary of the differences of families based on ethic/cultural backgrounds. Aim to include some studies and statistics. |  |  |
| **Trends and Patterns within the family** | How has the family changed?  Patterns in divorce, marriage, cohabitation, child bearing and rearing | Using your Trends booklet write 2 reasons with 3 pieces of evidence for:   * Increase in the number of households * Decline in family size * More adults living with their parents * Decline in marriages * People marrying later in life * Increase in divorce * Increase of single parents * People having children later in life * Increase in lone person households * More same sex couples * Increase in life expectancy   Changes in demographics that have had an influence on the family. |  |  |
|  | LIST – legal, ideological, social and technological. | * Identify key legal acts that have affected the family and write a flash card for each e.g. divorce laws, equality laws * Identify ideological factors that have affected the family e.g. secularisation, individualism, changing norms of love, cohabitation as normal, increased expectations of women. * Identify key technological issues that have affected the family e.g. contraception, IVF, abortion * Define the following social issues, provide statistics for each and explain their impact on the family: * Demographic change * Life expectancy * Birth rate * Death rate * Ageing population * Dependency ratio * Globalisation * Migration- push and pull factors * Immigration * Migration * Types of migrant (Robin Cohen) * Feminisation of migration (Hoshchild) * Super diversity (Verotec) * Assimilation * Multiculturalism |  |  |
|  | Key studies | * Make sure you have a summary of the different studies related to family trends and diversity- these can be found from p.24 of your booklet e.g. * Allan and Crow * Giddens * Berthoud * Ballard * Brannen * Weeks * Sharpe * Stacey * Beck and Beck etc. |  |  |

**EXAM WORKSHOPS**

Use the following workshops to help you develop exam skills

**Exam Workshop- 20 mark questions**

Writing Introductions to part 20 mark questions

A good introduction will have **four** clear components. It should:

* Define key terms in the question
* Identify the view outlined in the question
* Explain the view outlined in the question
* Recognise the opposing view to that outlined in the question

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| **Activity:**   1. Read the example below and highlight where the student has covered the four points outlined above.   Evaluate the view that roles of men and women within the family have become more equal. (20 marks)  **Traditionally the roles between men and women within the family were separated by a gendered division of labour. Women would adopt the roles of caring wife and loving mother and men would take on roles of breadwinner and protector. The view that argues that roles have become more equal comes from functionalist sociologists such as Willmott and Young, who argue that an equal partnership has emerged since the 1970’s, and Postmodernists such as Rapoport and Rapoport, who suggest that there is now more organisational diversity within the family, resulting in equal roles.**   1. Is there anyway in which you feel the student could improve their introduction? 2. The examples below could be improved. Using the previous example as a guide, rewrite the introduction below making sure you cover the four components of a good introduction.   Evaluate the view that there now exists a range of family types in contemporary society. (20 marks)  **One of the family types that exists is the beanpole family; these families are long and thin, The beanpole family includes many generations and their ties are intergenerational rather than intra-generational.**   1. Now try it on your own! Have a go at writing an introduction to the questions below. Make sure you cover the four components of a good introduction.   (b) Evaluate the view that the rising divorce rate since the 1970s is a direct consequence of changes in the law. (20 marks)  (b) Evaluate the view that relationships between men and women in the family are still patriarchal. (20 marks) |

Writing the main body of 20 mark questions

Evaluate the view that relationships between men and women in the family are still patriarchal. **[20]**

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| **Activity:**   1. Underline in the question above the command word (the word that indicate what you have to do) within the question. 2. What is it asking you to do?   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ =   1. Each 20 mark essay will ask you to evaluate, and most questions will indicate one side of a debate. From the question above identify the debate you must address within your answer:   VS   1. Read through the question again. Are there any key concepts (either clearly stated, or implied) that you should define within your introduction? List and define these below: 2. Which of these theories would you include within this answer? How would you use them to address the question? Are there any studies that you could use to illustrate these theories views?  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Theory: | How would you use this theory within the question? | Which studies could you use to illustrate this theories view? | | Functionalism |  |  | | Marxism |  |  | | Feminism |  |  | | Postmodernism |  |  | |

Writing conclusions to part 20 mark questions

A good conclusion will have **three** clear components. It should:

1. Refer back to the actual wording in the question
2. Offer something new that has not already been mentioned in the answer. E.g a criticism or evaluative point.
3. Make a comment (i.e. actually concludes) on which argument is the most evidence for/appears to be the strongest.

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| **Activity:**   1. Read the example below and highlight where the student has covered the three points outlined above.   Evaluate the view that the rising divorce rate since the 1970s is a direct consequence of changes in the law. (20 marks)  **It is clear from the evidence discussed here that changes in the law may have had some impact on the rise in divorce rates since the 1970’s. However it cannot be the only factor. Changes in expectation, the decline in religious values and the impact of feminism have all played apart. More significantly, the divorce rate actually fell by 7% between 2005 and 2006, according to the ONS. Postmodernist sociologists would argue that these more recent changes in divorce rate may be of more interest to sociologists that the changes of the past.**   1. Is there any way in which you feel the student could improve their conclusion? 2. The examples below could be improved. Using the previous example as a guide, rewrite the conclusion below making sure you cover the three components of a good conclusion.   Evaluate the view that family life in contemporary Britain is in decline (20 marks)  **In conclusion it is not possible to say whether the family is decline or not. There is a lot of family diversity such as single parent families and reconstituted families, if this is the case then different types of family show that it still exists.**   1. Now try it on your own! Have a go at writing a conclusion to the questions below. Make sure you cover the three components of a good conclusion.   Evaluate the view that relationships between men and women in the family are still patriarchal. (20 marks)  (b) Evaluate the view that roles of men and women within the family have become more equal. (20 marks) |

**Find a Key Statistic to describe the trends below (again this should already be in your notes) and be able to define the issue.**

|  |  |
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| **Growth in the number of households.** |  |
| **Decline in family size** |  |
| **Birth rate** |  |
| **Death rate** |  |
| **Fertility rate** |  |
| **Increase of young adults living with their Parents.** |  |
| **Decline in the number of marriages** |  |
| **Rise in the proportion of marriages which are remarriages.** |  |
| **People are marrying later in life** |  |
| **Increase in the rate of divorce** |  |
| **Increase in the number of couples cohabiting** |  |
| **The increase of single parents** |  |
| **An increase of one person households** |  |
| **Increase of same sex partners (with children)** |  |
| **Dependency ratio- ageing population** |  |
| **Dependency ratio- migration** |  |

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| FRAN ANSLEY (Radical feminist) | Women’s oppression in the home helps benefit capitalism |
| JESSIE BERNARD (Radical feminist) | The family ‘props up’ capitalism- it is a place where male workers feel they can have power and control (over women and children). Helps him accept his oppression in the capitalist system. |
| DUNCOMBE & MARSDEN (Radical feminist)  Triple shift | Women are the takers of ‘sh\*t’ |
| BRUEGAL (Marxist feminist) | The family meets the needs of the capitalist system first and its members second. The family socializes its members into accepting powerlessness and control. It is a unit of consumption. |
| ANN OAKLEY (Liberal feminist) | An economic system where, according to Marxists, the rich (bourgeoisie) are favoured over the poor (proletariat). Goods are created for profit, with the rich owning the means of production, from which they benefit. |
| FRIEDRICH ENGELS (Marxist) | Being a housewife makes women sick |
| ELI ZARETSKY (Marxist) | The idea of male dominance in society. Literal translation ‘control of the father’ |
| THE BROAD MARXIST BELIEF ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY IN SOCIETY | Looking after the home, the emotional wellbeing of family members and having a job. |
| PATRIARCHY | Nuclear family emerges to solve the problem of inheritance- it serves the capitalist system by protecting the inheritance of property and controlling women. The nuclear family is patriarchal. The housewife’s position is one of ‘glorified prostitution’. |
| CAPITALISM | 2 important ideas’ 1) roles in the family may be shared more now, but they are not equal. 2) Males and females are socialized into gender roles through a process of ‘canalisation’- being given gendered toys/clothes etc. |

**Match up the Sociologist to their argument**

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| ORGANIC ANALOGY (according to Functionalists) | Shared norms and values in society, which help create social order and stability. |
| VALUE CONSENSUS (according to Functionalists) | There is a clear sexual division of labour in the family, men have an instrumental role, whereas women have an expressive role. |
| GEORGE MURDOCK (Functionalist) | Argue that are families are now characterized by ‘choice’- this makes them diverse. Families also pass through ‘lifecyles’ which means they do not naturally conform to traditional ideas of the nuclear family. |
| TALCOTT PARSONS (Functionalist)  Functions of the family | There are 5 forms of family diversity- organisational, class, culture, lifecycle and cohort |
| TALCOTT PARSONS  Gender roles | Society is like a human body, made up of various parts that are dependent on each other. The family is the heart of society because of its importance in primary socialization and the formation of clear gender roles |
| YOUNG AND WILLMOTT (Broadly Functionalist) | The marital roles taken on by husband and wife in relation to domestic labour and the distribution of power in the relationship. |
| CONJUGAL ROLES | Argues, the nuclear family is universal and has 4 functional pre-requisites (things only it can do)- economic, sexual, reproductive, educational |
| ALAN & CROW (Postmodernists) | Our culture has lead us to become more individualized- focused on our own personal fulfilment and choosing our lifestyle. |
| RAPOPORT AND RAPOPORT (Postmodernists) | Have moved on Parson’s argument. They argue that the family is now in a third stage of development- the ‘symmetrical’ family, where roles have become more equal between husband and wife. |
| BECK & BECK GERNSHEIM | The family has 2 basic and irreducible functions- primary socialization and stablisation of the adult personality. |

**Possible questions for Paper 2**

**Shorter mark questions**

**Theory**

* Outline and explain two characteristics of the nuclear family. [10]
* *Item A: Capitalist society is based on a wealthy capitalist class exploiting the labour of a propertyless working class in order to extract a profit. However, to obtain their profit, capitalists must sell what has been produced and this requires people who are willing to buy it. For capitalism to continue, the proletariat must be persuaded to accept their exploitation. Capitalists also need to retain control of their wealth in order to maintain their privileged position.*
* Applying material from Item A, analyse two functions that the family may perform for capitalism [10]

**Roles and Relationships**

* Outline and explain two reasons for the growth of dual career families. [10]
* *Item A: Domestic violence accounts for up to a quarter of all recorded violent crime. Victims are more likely to be female and offenders males: domestic violence is linked to gender roles in patriarchal society. However, not all women are equally likely to suffer domestic violence. Victims- both male and female- are more likely to belong to disadvantaged social groups and live under difficult circumstances.*
* Applying material from Item A, analyse two reasons for patterns of domestic violence (10 marks)

**Childhood**

*Item A: A popular view is that childhood is a fixed, universal, biological stage of physical and physiological immaturity that is common to all human beings. Everyone will pass through it on the way to biological maturity and adulthood. However, evidence shows that what counts as childhood, what experiences children undergo and what roles they play, are far from universal.*

Applying material from Item A, analyse two argument against the view that childhood is a fixed, universal stage [10]

* Outline and explain two ways in which relationships between parents and children have changed. [10]
* Outline and explain two ways in which the family has become child-centred. [10]

**Trends and Diversity**

Item A: The different cultural traditions, migration patterns and economic circumstances of different minority groups are reflected in the ethnic differences in family and household patterns seen in the United Kingdom today. These include differences in the proportion of people from different ethnic groups who live in single person, nuclear family, lone-parent and extended family households

Applying material from Item A, analyse two reasons for ethnic differences in family and household patterns [10 marks]

Item A: Almost a third of households in the UK, 7 million in total, are now one-person households. However, people living alone do not form a group sharing the same characteristics. For example, there are more women then men in this group, except in the 35-49 age group, and whites are more likely than Asians or British Asians to live alone. *[Garrod revision book]*

Applying material from Item A, analyse two or more reasons for the increase in one-person households [10 marks]

* Outline and explain two reasons for the growth in single person households in the contemporary UK. [10]
* Outline and explain two reasons for the decrease in family size over the past 30 years. [10]
* Outline and explain two reasons for the increase in cohabitation in the contemporary UK. [10]
* Outline and explain two ways in which an ageing population affects family life. [10]
* Outline and explain two reasons for the decline in the marriage rate in the UK. [10]
* Outline and explain two reasons for the increase in one parent families in the contemporary UK. [10]
* Outline and explain two reasons for the increase in the divorce rate in the last 40 years. [10]
* Outline and explain two types of family diversity in the contemporary UK. [10]

**20 mark questions**

**Theory – Functions/Structure**

**Example 1**

*Item B: Despite their disagreements, functionalist, Marxist, and feminist approaches to the family share certain similarities. They are all structural approaches: they see the family as a structure that performs certain functions- although they disagree about what these functions are and who benefits from them. Similarly, they all assume that by ‘the family’ we mean the conventional nuclear family. Other sociologists reject this structuralist approach. For example, the personal life perspective takes a bottom up view that focuses on people’s meanings and how they themselves what counts as ‘family’. [Webb]*

Applying material from Item B and your knowledge, evaluate the usefulness of structural approaches to our understanding of families and households [20]

**Example 2**

*Item B: Some sociologists claim that the small, home centred nuclear family is ideal for socialising children into the norms and values of society and provides a stable background for both children and their parents. Some politicians go further and argue that the increasing breakdown of such family units is at least partly responsible for such social ills as delinquency and other forms of anti-social behaviour, together with rising rates of depression. [Garrod revision book]*

**Applying material from Item B and your own knowledge, evaluate the view that the traditional nuclear family best serves the interests of its members and of society as a whole [20]**

**Example 3**

*Item B: Many functions that were once carried out by the family, such as the welfare of its members, have been taken over by other agencies such as the medical profession and social services. However, the family still performs some essential functions, such as socialising children and producing the next generation. [Garrod revision book]*

**Applying material from Item B and your own knowledge, evaluate the view that the state has taken over most of the functions of the family [20]**

**Example 4**

*Item B: Marxists believe that an important role of the family in capitalist society is to socialise members into accepting the ideas of the ruling class and adopting values such as obedience to authority. The role of women is also seen as important, as they raise the next generation of workers, but their domestic labour is unpaid. [Garrod revision book]*

**Applying material from Item B and your own knowledge, evaluate the Marxist view of the role of the family in capitalist society [20]**

* Evaluate the view that the nuclear family is the ideal family form. [20]
* Evaluate Marxist views of the role of the family in society [20]
* Evaluate the view that the nuclear family has a negative impact on its members. [20]
* Evaluate the view that the nuclear family is the ideal family. [20]
* Evaluate Functionalist views of the role of the family in society [20]
* Evaluate Feminist views of the role of the family in society [20]

**Roles and relationships**

**Example 1**

*In contemporary Britain, families are often thought to be more “symmetrical”, whereby the relationship between married or cohabiting couples has become less patriarchal, or male-dominated, and much more an equally balanced partnership.*

*Both partners share household chores, childcare and decision-making, and both partners are more likely to be involved in paid employment.*

Applying material from **Item B** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that contemporary families have become a partnership of equals. (20 marks)

**Example 2**

*Research by feminist sociologists such as Oakley showed that gender roles were unequal in many families, with women taking the greatest share of housework and childcare. Some sociologists argued that this was because these roles were ‘natural’. However, it is now claimed that there is a growing equality between partners, with domestic tasks being shared more equally.*

Applying material from Item B and your knowledge, evaluate the contribution of feminists to our understanding of the family (20 marks)

**Example 3**

*Some sociologists claim that many changes in society have benefitted women and their roles within the family. For example, they argue that both the increasing number of women in the workforce and the growing acceptance of equality between the sexes have led to the roles of men and women within the family becoming more similar. Other sociologists argue that family roles continue to reflect the unequal positions of men and women in society.*

Applying material from Item B and your knowledge, evaluate the view that families remain largely patriarchal structures that disadvantage women (20 marks)

* Evaluate the view that relationships between men and women in the family are still patriarchal. [20]
* Evaluate feminist views of relationships between men and women in family life. [20]
* Evaluate the view that the roles of men and women in the family have become more equal. [20]
* Evaluate the view that the family is no longer patriarchal. [20]
* Evaluate the view that there is a dark side to family life. [20]

**Childhood**

*Item B: According to some sociologists, children in today’s supposedly child-centred society lead lives that are segregated and controlled, but childhood was not always like this. Aries describes a medieval world where there was little distinction between children and adults in either work or leisure. According to this view, industrial society brought major changes. Children’s lives became increasingly confined and regulated by adults. Not all sociologists share this view. Some argue that the distinction between childhood and adulthood is again becoming blurred.*

Applying material from Item B and your knowledge, evaluate sociological explanations of changes in the status of childhood [20]

*Item B: Some sociologists suggest that contemporary families have become more child-centred than in the past. Parents today spend much more time with their children, and spend a great deal more money to ensure they give their children the most fulfilling upbringing possible. Many parents want their children to have opportunities they never had themselves as children. Critics of this point to children’s lack of control over their lives, child abuse and other problems that children today may face.*

Applying material from Item B and your knowledge, evaluate the view that contemporary families have become more child-centred [20]

* Evaluate the view that relationships between parents and children have changed in the last 30 years. [20]
* Evaluate the view that childhood is disappearing [20]

**Diversity and Trends**

Item B: There has been a significant increase in the number of divorces since 1970. One important factor behind the increase has been the changes in the law relating to divorce. However, legal changes alone may not be enough to explain the trend and sociologists have suggested a number of possible causes of a higher divorce rate. One of these is a decline in the influence of traditional norms and values about marriage that used to stigmatise divorce.

Applying material from item B and your knowledge, evaluate sociological contributions to our understanding of the trends in divorce in the United Kingdom since 1970. (20 marks)

Item B: In modern society, people’s lives were made up of fixed age-stages, with the final stage being define by compulsory retirement and, for many, poverty. The old also faced prejudice and discrimination. By contrast, some sociologists argue that the position of the old in today’s postmodern society is changing for the better. In postmodern society, individuals can choose a lifestyle and identity that does not depend on their age. This has freed the old from their previous disadvantaged status in society.

Applying material from Item B and your knowledge, evaluate the view that the position of the old in today’s society is changing for the better (20 marks)

Item B: Changes in patterns of marriage have caused concern in many parts of society. The growth in both cohabitation and lone-parent families and the increase in the number of ‘singletons’ are used as evidence that marriage is no longer important. *[Garrod revision book]*

Applying material from Item B and your knowledge, evaluate the view that marriage is no longer an important institution in society (20 marks)

* Evaluate the view that family diversity has a negative impact on society. [20]
* Evaluate the view that the family is characterised by diversity in the contemporary UK. [20]
* Evaluate postmodern views on the diversity of family life. [20]
* Evaluate the view that it makes more sense to talk about a range of family types rather than “the family” in the contemporary UK. [20]
* Evaluate the view that the contemporary UK contains a range of ethnically diverse families [20]