

Year 10 Sociology January PPE1 information

In this exam you will need to answer 1, 3, 4 and 12 mark questions. These will use various command words such as **'Describe'**, **'identify and describe'** and **'Discuss'**. Questions will cover the following areas of the specification:

Functions of families

Content	Additional information
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Differing views of the functions of families.• Parsons functionalist perspective on primary socialisation and the stabilisation of adult personalities.	Students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• identify, describe and explain the functions of families (sexual, reproductive, economic and educational)• describe, compare and contrast a variety of sociological perspectives on the functions of families (functionalist, feminist and Marxist).

Family forms

Content	Additional information
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How family forms differ in the UK and within a global context.• The work of the Rapoport on family diversity.	Students should be able to identify, describe and explain various family forms (nuclear, extended, reconstituted, lone parent, single sex).

Criticisms of families

Content	Additional information
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Different criticisms of families (isolation and unrealistic idealisation, loss of traditional functions, lack of contact with wider kinship networks, the status and role of women within families, marital breakdown, dysfunctional families).• The work of Zaretsky on developments in families from a Marxist perspective and Delphy and Leonard's feminist critique of families.	Students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• identify, describe and explain different criticisms of families• describe, compare and contrast a variety of sociological perspectives on these issues (functionalist, feminist and Marxist)• describe the key ideas of Zaretsky on families• describe the key ideas of Delphy and Leonard on families.

Divorce

Content	Additional information
Changes in the pattern of divorce in Britain since 1945 and the consequences of divorce for family members and structures.	Students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• identify, describe and explain the pattern of divorce in Britain since 1945 using relevant statistical data• explain reasons for the rise in divorce since 1945 including: changes in the law, changes in social attitudes and values, secularisation, changes in the status of women in society• describe the consequences of divorce for family members (husband and wife, children and extended family) and the increase in the numbers of lone parent families• describe, compare and contrast a variety of sociological perspectives on these issues (functionalist, feminist and Marxist).

Key texts and summaries

Delphy C and Leonard D, Familiar Exploitation, (1992)

Writing from a feminist perspective Delphy and Leonard emphasise the importance of work. In their view it is men, rather than capitalists as such, who are the prime beneficiaries of the exploitation of women's labour. They believe that the family has a central role in maintaining patriarchy; the family is an economic system involving a particular set of labour relations in which men benefit from and exploit the work of women. Women are oppressed because their work is appropriated within the family eg when wives have paid employment outside the home they still have to carry out household tasks which are not equally shared with their male partners.

Parsons T, 'The social structure of the family' in Anshen R N (ed.), The Family: its Functions and Destiny, (1959)

Writing from a functionalist perspective Parsons held the view that the American family retained two basic and irreducible functions which are common to all families in all societies, these are the primary socialisation of children and the stabilisation of adult personalities eg to give and receive emotional support. Later authors have criticised his work as presenting an idealised picture of family life centred on the middle-class experience.

Rapoport R and Rapoport R N, 'British families in transition' in Rapoport et al. (eds), Families in Britain, (1982)

Pioneering family researchers working in both Britain and America, they described five different aspects of family diversity: organisational (eg internal divisions of domestic labour), cultural (beliefs and values), class (eg how the family's position in the social class system affects the availability of resources), life course (stage in the family life cycle) and cohort (historical period). Their work predates the emergence of gay and lesbian households as a more open and accepted feature of society.

Zaretsky E, Capitalism, the Family and Personal Life, (1976)

Writing from a Marxist perspective Zaretsky takes the view that modern capitalist society has created an illusion that the 'private life' of the family is separate from the economy. Zaretsky does not believe that the family is able to provide for the psychological and social needs of the individual. Whilst cushioning the effects of capitalism it perpetuates the system and cannot compensate for the general alienation produced by such a society. He believes that the family has become a prop to the capitalist economy (eg the system depends on the domestic labour of housewives who reproduce future generations of workers) whilst also serving as a vital unit of consumption. In his view only socialism will end the artificial separation of family and public life, and make possible personal fulfilment.