

Functionalist view of the family is that the family is one of the corner stones of society. It performs essential functions which support social stability and social cohesion.

Universal nuclear family is a family that consists of 2 generations, parents and children and Murdock believes that this family type exists all over the world and is the best family type.

Social institutions are the structures in society which influence behaviour such as the family, education, media and religion.

Functions of the Family: Murdock

Sexual	Ensures that adult sexual relationships are controlled and socially acceptable. This meant stable monogamous heterosexual relationships.
Reproduction	The biological reproduction of the next generation – without which society cannot continue.
Socialisation	Socialisation of the young – teaching basic norms and values so that the next generation are fully integrated into society and maintain the social
Economic	Meeting its members economic needs – producing food and shelter for example.

Functions of the Family: Parsons

Socialisation	Agrees with Murdock that the family is essential in the primary socialisation process and ensuring the that each generation are socialised in to the norms and values of society.
Stabilisation of adult personalities	The stabilisation of adult personalities refers to the emotional security which is achieved within a marital relationship between two adults. According to Parsons working life in Industrial society is stressful and the family is a place where the working man can return and be 'de-stressed' by his wife, which reduces conflict in society. This is also known as the 'warm bath theory' Stabilization is achieved the through the biologically determined roles- Expressive and instrumental.

Evaluation

1	Down plays the role of conflict in the family. In particular the oppression of women and domestic violence. The family is not always the safe and warm place suggested by Parsons.
2	Out of Date – Women now go out to work and the biological roles as set out by Parsons no longer apply as clearly.
3	Deterministic – Assumes that the members of society automatically take on the norms and values.
4	Ignores family diversity – Assumes that all families are best when nuclear however many family structures are apparent in todays society and still fulfil the same functions.

Parsons: Internal Criticisms

Best Fit Theory	Nuclear family is not universal, the structure of the family changes as the needs of the society changes. Pre industrial families were extended families with multiple generations living together, where as post industrial families needed to be geographically mobile and therefore became isolated nuclear families.
Structural Differentiation	Some functions of the family as identified by Murdock have moved to other institutions for example the economic function has be taken on by the welfare state and the NHS.

The New Right have a conservative view of the family. They are firmly opposed to family diversity and hold the view that the traditional nuclear family should be protected.

The traditional nuclear family is seen as 'natural' and based on the fundamental biological differences between men and women.

New Right sociologists recommend that:
Parents should be married
Mothers should stay at home.
Families should not receive generous benefits.

Dennis & Erdos wrote Families Without Fathers in 2000 and argued that the increasing numbers of children born outside of marriage to single mothers was putting these children at a disadvantage. On average, they have poorer health and lower educational success than children from nuclear families. They are particularly worried about boys from lone mother households as they grow up without the expectation that adulthood involves responsibilities for a wife and children. This can result in irresponsible, immature & anti-social young men

Charles Murray argues that 'increasing numbers of young, healthy, low-income males choose not to take jobs'. Many turn to crime & drug abuse. He argues that many of these boys have grown up in a family without a father & male wage earner.

Within a female-headed underclass family, dependent on state benefits, the disciplines and responsibilities of mainstream, 'normal' society tend to break down.

The **underclass** – the lowest section of society defined by:
Parenting behaviour
Criminal behaviour
Labour market behaviour (over reliance on the welfare state).

Lone parent families

The New Rights are concerned about the growth of lone parent families. They see lone parent families as harmful to children. They argue that:

- Lone parent mothers can't discipline their children properly
- Boys are left without an adult male role model, leading to delinquency and social instability
- Such families are also poorer and therefore a burden on the welfare state and tax payers.

Summary

	The New Right argues for a return to traditional family values, with government policies to reverse the decline. Eg Marriage Tax Allowance
	The family is under threat due to the following factors: a breakdown of 'traditional family values'; over-generous welfare state benefits to single mothers; influence of feminism which has devalued marriage and housewifery; increased sexual promiscuity; greater tolerance of gay and lesbian relationships as alternatives to 'straight' couples.

Evaluation

1.	Feminist Anne Oakley (1997) argues that the New Right wrongly assume that husband and wives' roles are fixed biologically.
2.	Feminists argue that the conventional nuclear family is based on the patriarchal oppression of women and is a fundamental cause of women's oppression.
3.	Critics argue that there is no evidence that children in lone parent families are more likely to be delinquent than those brought up in two parent families.
4.	The view that marriage equals commitment, whilst cohabitation does not, has been challenged. For many, cohabitation isn't a temporary life phase it is a permanent alternative to marriage.

Marxist view of the family is...

Marxists believe that the family is a tool of capitalism and its main function is to maintain capitalism and reinforce social inequalities.

Economic Base means The base comprises the forces and relations of production into which people enter to produce the necessities and amenities of life.

Superstructure means its culture, institution, political power structures, roles, rituals, and state.

Cushioning effect is similar to Parson's Warm Bath Theory, in that it suggests the family provides a Haven from the harsh oppression and exploitation of the capitalist world.

Ideological state apparatus means the social institutions such as education, the churches, family, media, trade unions, and law, which were formally outside state control but which served to transmit the values of the state.

Functions of the family: Marxism

Inheritance of Wealth

Key Thinker: Fredrick Engels

The isolated nuclear family means that men are able to confirm when a child is theirs and can ensure that wealth stays within the family through private inheritance. This helps to maintain capitalism by keep wealth within the private family rather than being distributed amongst the community.

Cushioning Effect

Key Thinker: Zaretsky

The cushioning effect is similar to Parson's Warm Bath theory in that the family acts as a comfort from the stresses and strains of society. However Zaretsky believes that the family allows a man to feel in control and powerful which they don't feel in the workplace due to bourgeoisie oppression. This also maintains capitalism as it prevents the proletariat from recognising their oppression and starting a revolution.

Unit of Consumption

Key Thinker: Zaretsky

Families play a vital role in the generation of profits for the bourgeoisie. Firstly the workers are paid less than the amount charged for the products they create. The family is then targeted by advertisers to buy the products they have created by urging families to 'keep up with the Jones' and targeting children ho use "Pester Power" to ensure that they have latest things to prevent bullying.

Socialisation

Key Thinker: Althusser

Marxists agree with Functionalists that the family is a key part of the socialisation process. However Marxists believe that the family socialises the next generation into the ruling class ideology and the unequal social hierarchy. This maintains capitalism by ensuring the next generation accepts the ruling ideology as normal.

Other Functions of the family

Creating the next generation of workers.

Reserve labour force – Women.

Evaluation

- **Ignores family diversity –** Marxists only discuss the role of the nuclear family, by passing all other family types.

- **Deterministic –** Overemphasises the role of the family in maintaining capitalism and ignores other inequalities such as the role of the family in maintaining patriarchy.

- **Negative View –** Ignores the positive effects that the family can have for its members.

+ Discusses the idea that the nuclear family is a social construction and not necessarily good for society.

+ Explains the existence of the "dark side of the family"

General Feminist view of the family is...

Feminists are critical of the family as a social institutions. They believe that the family is a tool of female oppression and in particular the nuclear family serves the needs of men rather than women. This is through issues such as unequal division of domestic labour and domestic violence.

They believe that gender inequality is a social construction and not a natural phenomena.

Triple Shift refers to the three roles that women are expected to perform for the family:

1. Emotional Support
2. Domestic Labour
3. Paid work

Duel Burden Refers to the two traditional roles that women are expected to play in the family:

1. Emotional Support
2. Domestic Labour

Patriarchy refers to the way that men dominate women in most areas of society.

Malestream Sociology refers to the way that sociologists will apply research data collected about men to the lives of women despite their different experiences.

Liberal Feminism	Radical Feminism	Marxist Feminism	Intersectional Feminism/Difference feminism
<p>Families are slowly becoming more equal through changes in law and social attitudes. They do not believe that full equality has been achieved but the process is well underway.</p> <p>For example they show how parents are now socialising their children in more gender neutral ways, with similar aspirations for both sons and daughters and chores not being determined by gender.</p>	<p>Radical feminists believe that men are the enemy and marriage and family are the key institutions which allow patriarchy to exist.</p> <p>For radical feminists in order for equality to be achieved patriarchy needs to be overturned. They argue that the family needs to be abolished and a system of separatism needs to be instituted for this to happen.</p> <p>They also argue for <i>Political Lesbianism</i> because heterosexual relationships are inevitably oppressive.</p> <p>Greer – Matrilocal households – all female households with shared parental responsibility.</p>	<p>Marxist feminists see the family as a tool of capitalism and that it is capitalism not men who oppress women.</p> <p>They see the family as oppressing women whilst support capitalism in three ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Women reproduce the workforce and socialise them into social hierarchy. 2. Women absorb the anger of men who are frustrated by their alienation and exploitation. <i>Ansley – Women are takers of shit.</i> 3. Women are a reserve army of cheap labour that can be activated when they are needed and let go when no longer needed – e.g. WWII. 	<p>States that other feminist beliefs focus on the experience of women in a nuclear family however not all families are nuclear. Just as not all women will have the same experience of family life.</p> <p>For example a black woman may find her family provide a refuge from societal racism rather than it being a place of oppression or negativity.</p>
<p>Overstates the amount of progress that has been made. Women still have the triple shift.</p> <p>Marxist and Radical feminists also argue that liberal feminists fail to challenge the underlying causes of women's oppression and changing the law is not enough to bring about equality, there needs to be a fundamental change in social structures.</p>	<p>Sommerville argues that radical feminists fail to see the improvements that have been made to women's experiences of the family. With better access to divorce and control over their fertility women are not longer trapped by family. She also argues that separatism is unobtainable due to heterosexual attraction.</p>	<p>Women are no longer a reserve labour force as they have equal rights at work and are as likely as men to be the main breadwinner in the family.</p>	<p>Neglects the fact that many women do share the same experiences of family regardless of ethnicity or social class. For example they all face a risk of domestic violence and low pay.</p>

Sociology of Personal Life

Key Thinker: Carol Smart & Petra Nordqvist

Definition of the family:

Developed alongside the interactionist approaches to the family. The personal life perspective takes the definition of the family beyond the ties of blood and marriage.

For example, a person may not feel close to their sibling, so would not help in a crisis, but may do this for a friend.

Without knowing the meaning behind the relationship, we are unable to know how someone would behave.

Other significant relationships

- **Friendships** – feelings of closeness "like a sister/brother"
- **Fictive Kin** – Close friends who are treated as relatives.
- **Chosen Families (LGBTQ)** – Supportive networks of friends, ex-partners & Others
- **Relationships With Dead Relatives** – Live on in people's memories and shape their identities and actions.
- **Relationships With Pets** – Tripper "Children often see pets as part of the family"

Personal Life Perspective on the family:

By focusing on the meanings behind the relationships, PLP suggests that we choose the families that we want and need, but these are based on past experiences rather than an open choice. Smart & Nordqvist looked into donor-conceived children to explain the importance of the social relationship over the genetic relationship. Mothers noted that their definition of being a mother was more linked to the time taken to raise their child than the cell that started the process.

Evaluation

Can be accused of taking too broad a view. By including a wide range of family types and personal relationships, it is possible to overlook what is special about relationships which are based on blood and marriage ties.

This approach helps us to understand how people themselves construct and define "family" relationships.

Postmodernist view of the family

Giddens & Beck view of the family

AKA Individualisation Thesis

Traditional social structures have lost a lot of the influence they had over people's actions and decisions. In the past, people were defined by ascribed roles based on class, gender, and religion, which prevented them from choosing their own life course or family type. However, we have been freed or disembedded from these traditional roles and structures, which means we are able to choose the family that meets our needs and wants at that point in our lives.

Giddens argues that this transformation has been caused by advancements such as the availability of contraception and female independence, which has also changed the basis of couples' relationships – Pure Relationships.

Stacey's view of the family

Greater freedom and choice has benefitted women, enabling them to free themselves from patriarchal oppression and shape their family arrangements around what works for them and their needs.

Stacey used life history interviews in Silicon Valley to show that it is women who have led the change in family structures, roles, and responsibilities rather than men.

Stacey noted a new type of family which she called the Divorce-Extended family, whose key members may include Ex-In Lays, Ex-Partners, and their new partners. These members, although no longer connected by blood or marriage, will still help each other financially and domestically.

Evaluation

Personal Life Perspective – Exaggerates how much choice people have about family. They argue that although traditional social structures have weakened, they still exist and will influence people's choices. They also argue that people are not completely disembedded, as social context such as personal experiences and the media will impact decisions and choices that people make.

Vanessa May: "Beck and Giddens' view of the individual is simply an idealised version of white middle class man."

Carol Smart: Connectedness Thesis – People are social beings who live in a web of connectedness, networks of relationships, and personal histories which strongly influence and shape our range of options and choices.

SOCIAL POLICIES refer to laws made by the government which aim to improve society or deal with a social policy.

Views on Social Policies



Ronald Fletcher – Health education and housing policies have led to the welfare state which supports the family in completing its functions.



New Right are strong believers that the conventional heterosexual nuclear family which is self sufficient. Therefore believe that social policies have been a negative influence on society promoting family diversity and the disintegration of society.



Feminism see policies as assuming what a 'normal family' is patriarchal nuclear family with a male breadwinner and a female homemaker. And therefore social policies ensure the maintenance of this family type. E.G. Childcare policies and Caring for the elderly.



Marxists see family policy as a way for the ruling class to maintain their capitalist control of society and ensure that the family continues to support capitalism.

Types of social Policy

1	Providing Material Support for the family. Such as cash benefits through tax credits and child benefits.
2	Helping parents to balance working life and family life. Policies such as maternity pay, early years childcare and child protection laws.

Timeline of social policies and the family

1980 – 1990's – Conservative Policies

Aim	The New Right had a lot of influence during this time so the main aim of policies were to strengthen the traditional Nuclear family, emphasizing the self help and reliance. Reduced welfare payments
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established Child Support Agency 1993 Made illegitimate children have the same rights as those born to wedded parents. Children's Act 1989 Married Men's Tax Allowance Section 28 Back to Basic

1997 – 2010 – New Labour Policies

Aim	Silva & Smart – Favoured Dual earning families but also emphasizes the heterosexual nuclear family and for parents to take responsibility for their children. Some support for alternative family types.
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parenting Orders Longer Maternity Leave Working families tax credit The New Deal Civil Partnerships Unmarried Couples adoption Sexuality Discrimination Laws

2010 Onwards – Coalition Policies

Aim	Inconsistent policies on the family due to conflict between two camps of MP's Hayton: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modernists who accept diversity Traditionalists who favour a New Right view.
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed Couples penalty. Shared Parental Leave Equal Marriage Act

Other important Policies

	Outline	Impact on family
Beverage Report 1942	Introduced the Welfare state including housing benefit and the NHS.	This led to the removal of some of the functions of the family to the welfare state.
Divorce Reform Act 1969	Made Divorce easier to obtain. Allowed Women to file for divorce from her husband without having to prove, adultery, abuse or abandonment.	Increase in family diversity, especially single parent families and reconstituted families. Increased women's independence.
Legalisation of Contraceptive Pill 1967	Made it legal for women who were unmarried to obtain the contraceptive pill	Women had control over their bodies and how many children they had, this led to a decline in the birth rate.

Family Diversity refers to the differences between families, in terms of the organisations, structure and roles within the family.

What do each of these theorist believe is the dominate family type in today's society and why?



Murdock

Murdock doesn't believe in family diversity and that the nuclear family is natural and universal.



Peter Wilmott

Wilmott believes that family diversity has been exaggerated but family structure has changed to a dispersed extended family.



Julia Brannon

Brannon believes that family structures have changed and the new family type is the beanpole family.



Michael Anderson

Anderson argues that family diversity has always been present, not just in structure but in terms of power, roles and relationships.

The Rappaports 5 types of family diversity

Type	Explanation	
C Cultural Diversity	There are cultural differences in both family structures and organization. Asian families tend to be extended and Afro-Caribbean tend to be matrifocal in nature.	
L Life Course Analysis	Hareven 1978 – Family structures and organisation change as we go through our lives matching the time of life we are at and our needs at that time.	
O Organisational Diversity	This refers to how the family is structured in terms of its members and power structures. For example who has the most power. For example lone parent, empty-nest or nuclear.	
G Generational Diversity	This refers to the shared historical experiences that a group has which will shape their family structure and organisation. For example the introduction of the contraceptive pill or WWII.	
S Social Class Diversity	Inequalities in lifestyle possibilities have increased since the 1980s. Wealth and income have an obvious impact in terms of the type of housing, room size/number, financial problems and holidays, for example.	

Causes of Family Diversity

Cause	Explanation
Changes in Law	Laws such as the Divorce Reform Act, legalisation of contraception and civil partnership act have increased family diversity.
Changes in Social Attitudes	Society has moved forward and family structures such as lone parent, same sex and stay at home fathers are much more acceptable now.
Changing Role of Women	The rise in feminism and growing equality has given women more freedom and independence from men which has changed the structure and roles within the family- leading to more symmetrical families.
Secularisation	The decline in the power of the church has lessened its influence on the family. Changes in church teachings have also had an impact, e.g. use of contraception and same sex relationships.
Globalisation / Immigration	As technology has advanced we have seen the rise of the dispersed extended family – a family which is close emotionally but not geographically. Immigration has also seen new types of family arise in the UK
Material Factors	Greater affluence, greater geographical and social mobility. The greater economic independence of women increased lifespan.

Theories of Family Diversity

	Functionalism: Parsons	New Right: Murray	Postmodernism	Feminism: Stacey	Chester: Neo Conventional Family.
View of Diversity	Functional fit theory – It is not diversity but the changing of structures to meet the needs of society.	Diversity is the cause of society breakdown.	Diversity is increasing and a result of growing choice and globalisation in the modern world.	Growing diversity is a positive move for women.	Statistics are misleading regarding the extent of family diversity.
Explanation	Functional fit theory where the family structure is constantly changing and adapting to meet the needs of society at the present time.	Only one correct family type – the patriarchal, nuclear family with a clear-cut division of labour between the husband and wife (instrumental and expressive).	Society has become for individualised due to development of medicine, technology and female equality. Relationships are now based on confluent love or 'pure relationships'	Family diversity has allowed women not break away from traditional roles and create family arrangements which meet their needs.	The neo-conventional family is becoming more common, which is a nuclear family but with far more equality and symmetry in the division of labour.

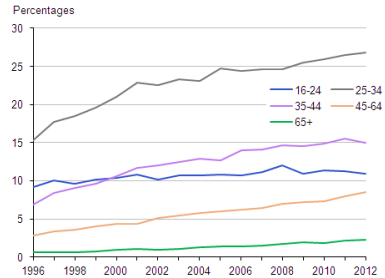
Cohabitation refers to two people living together in the same residence whilst also being part of an intimate romantic relationship.

Marriage refers to the legally or formally recognized union of two people as partners in a personal relationship

Divorce refers to the legal dissolution of a marriage by a court or other competent body.

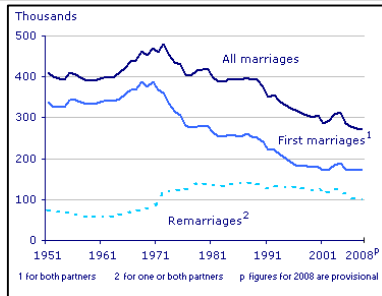
LAT (Living Apart Together) couples are couples who are in a committed intimate relationship or marriage but live at separate addresses.

Trends in Cohabitation



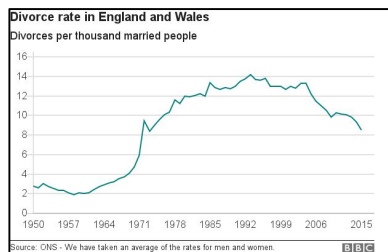
Cohabiting couples are rising particularly in the 25-34 age range.

Trends in Marriage



Marriage is generally in decline although there are blips during baby boom eras. Number of remarriages is rising. Age of first marriage is also rising.

Trends in Divorce



The divorce rate in recent years has been in decline overall but there has been an increase in divorce in the over 60's

Causes of the trends in cohabitation, marriage and divorce.

	Impact on the trend
Changing role of women	As women have become more independent and gained more equal rights they no longer need to have the financial security of marriage so are putting off till later preferring to cohabit first to check compatibility. Women also no longer feel trapped in a marriage that is not working.
Secularisation	The reduction in religious influence in society has led to divorce and cohabitation becoming more acceptable. Additionally people no longer feel the need to have a religious ceremony for their wedding.
Social Changes	Changing expectations of marriage have meant that people are more likely to leave a marriage which doesn't fit their expectations. They are also more likely to cohabit in order to "try before you buy" with a partner.
Legal Changes	The Divorce reform act has made divorce much easier for both partners in the marriage to dissolve it. Same Sex marriage in 2015 are now included in the statistics which could explain the slight rise.
Economic Reasons	Women are more economically independent so do not need to marry for security. Rising house prices mean that people will cohabit in order to buy a house before marriage. Weddings are expensive: £30k average in 2018.
Postmodern Reasons	The Pure Relationship: Giddens. The quest for the perfect relationships could put people off marriage. People stay in relationships that fulfil them and when they don't they move on.
Changes in the family	The roles within the family are becoming more equal as people have a higher expectation of what marriage should be and when that expectation is not met then people separate.

Impact of the trends

Negative Impacts:

Wilson and Stuchbury 2010

- Cohabitation is less stable than marriage

Murphy

- Children of cohabiting parents are disadvantaged

New Right

- Divorce is eroding the very fabric of society.

Feminists

- Divorce Laws have helped women to gain freedom, independence and social equality.

Positive Impacts:

Feminists

- Cohabitation has led to more negotiation and equality in roles.

Beaujouan and Ni Bhrolchain

- Cohabitation is the new normal
- Cohabitation as a pre-marriage test.
- Cohabitation causes decrease in divorce by 5th anniversary.

Jon Bernardes (1997)

- Divorce is less damaging on children than a negative marriage.

Total fertility rate means The number of children who would be born per woman (or per 1,000 women) if she/they were to pass through the childbearing years bearing children according to a current schedule of age-specific **fertility rates**.

General fertility rate means the **total** number of live births per 1,000 women of reproductive age (ages 15 to 49 years) in a population per year.

Birth rate means the number of live births per thousand of population per year.

Average family size is defined in terms of the number of children in the **household**.

Average household size is defined by the number of people residing in a single residence.

Trends and Changes (Stats)

	1900	2012
TFR	4.3	1.83
GFR	115:1000	64:1000
Birth Rate	28:1000	12:1000
Family Size	6	1.7
Household Size	4.6	2.4

Reasons for the trends

Contraception	Since the advent of safer, legal and effective methods of contraception become available it has allowed women and couples to control the number of children they have and when they decide to have them.
Education	Since the introduction of compulsory education children have gone from being an economic asset to an economic burden. Where as in the 1900's children would be working from a young age, children today are in compulsory education until they are 18 and parents today can be supporting their children well in to their 20's.

Role of women	Many women now want to have a career of their own rather than care for a large family, compared to before when women's role was to do so. Also by putting her career first a woman will leave having children till later in life, the average age of first child is currently 30 years old, meaning they have less time to have more children.
Infant mortality Rate	Fewer people die in their childhood than ever before, this means that fewer families are compensating by having more children in the hope that 1 or 2 will survive infancy. In 1900 22.5% of live births would die before their 5 th birthday where as in 2015 it was 0.5%
Geographic Mobility	The modern labour force needs to be very mobile. This is an incentive for smaller families because it makes it easier to just pack up and move elsewhere
Changing Values	Parenthood is a lifelong, stressful commitment, many couples are now deciding that they do not want children, whereas before this would have been a bad thing, it is now accepted in society.
Economic Factors	The cost of raising a child is rising every year with the current estimate at around £235,000 from birth to 18 and rising to £271,000 if going to 21 and including university education. This can influence couples who choose to only have 1 child as they cannot afford to have a second.

Impact of changing fertility rates

Reduction in labour force	With less people being born gaps are starting to show in the labour force, meaning that there are not the people to fill the gaps left by those retiring.
Dependency Ratio	The dependency ratio is an age-population ratio of those typically not in the labour force and those typically in the labour force. With fewer children being born the ratio becomes unbalanced due to aging populations.
Immigration	Immigration becomes more important with declining birth rates as this will fill gaps in the labour market.
Growth of Bean pole family	Julia Brannon – the growth of the Beanpole family into one of the more dominate family types as generations are living longer but have fewer members in each generation.
Voluntary Childlessness	Family Policy Studies Centre found that in 2000 1 in 5 women aged 40 had chosen not to have children compared to 1 in 10 in 1980. Hakim suggest that this has a direct link to the availability of contraception. Gillespie also suggest the push/pull idea where women feel the pull factor as greater freedom and better relationships where as the push factor of seeing parenthood as conflicting with careers and leisure activities.
Decrease in Full time mothers	Less and less women are choosing to be a full time stay at home mothers (meaning not working till the child has left home) as there are many childcare options available including nurseries, grandparents and breakfast and after-school clubs. These are more affordable with only one child to pay for.

Domestic Division of Labour means the chores that are completed around the house such as cleaning, laundry, cooking, DIY and gardening.

Decision Making in the family refers to the ways that families determine how decisions are made in the family. This can include financial decisions as well as day to day decisions and life changing ones.

Traditional Views of Domestic Division of labour



Instrumental Role – The rational male role that is the breadwinner of the family and the disciplinarian of the family.



Expressive Role – the emotional and caring role that is usual carried out by the female in the family. It includes child care and most of the domestic labour.

March of Progress View: Wilmott and Young

Families are becoming more equal and democratic. There is a move away from the separate conjugal roles of Talcott Parsons and move towards more joint conjugal roles. With women going out to work, men need to take more of an active role in the family and couples are more likely to spend their leisure time together.

Decision Making in the family: Money

Thinkers	Explanation
McIntosh & Barrett	Men gain more from women's unpaid domestic labour and in allowance situations men do not give adequate financial recompense and it often comes with strings attached. Men often make the majority of the big decisions.
Kempson	Women in low income families will often go without in favour of making sure ends meet as they see money as family money. Men do not think this way.
Pahl and Volger	Allowance System – Men give wives a certain amount of money each week/month for family expenses, all excess belongs to them. Pooling – All money goes into a central pot and take joint responsibility for expenditure however men tend to earn more than women.

Decision Making in the family

Thinkers	Explanation
Edgell (1980)	Very important decision are taken by men, important decisions taken jointly, day to day decisions taken by women. Backed up by Hardill in 1997
Laurie and Gurshunny (2000)	70% of couples said they had equal say in family decisions by 1995 but women who had high earning positions were more likely to say they have equal say.
Feminists	Decision making isn't linked to money but cultural expectations of a patriarchal society and gender role socialisation.

Why are Roles Changing?

Factor	Explanation
Economically Active Women /Mothers	With women going out to work more, men need to h around the house more in order for chores to get done.
Decline in the extended family	With fewer family members around to help with things like child care the couple need to be more equal.
Weakening Gender Identities	With the rise of gender neutrality in terms of roles and jobs there is less pressure to conform to traditional roles.
Technology and living standards	New technology such as washing machines and dishwashers as well as smart homes means that some of the jobs that used to be done no longer need to be.
Commercialisation of domestic labour.	As the family has become dual earning, there has been a growth in the domestic labour industry as more families pay for certain tasks to be completed or hire in Au pairs and nannies.

To what extent has the level of change in domestic division of labour been exaggerated?

	Explanation	Evidence
No	Wilmott and Young – Rise of the Symmetrical Family.	Acceptance of the interchangeability of roles. 7 out of 10 women of working age now have jobs. Half of mothers with children aged under five are in work. 36% of couples say that the man is the main carer
Yes	Dual burden and Triple Shift	Brayfield (1992), Ferri & Smith (1996), Man-yeo Kan (2001), Hochschild (1990) All found even in dual career families women had major responsibility for domestic tasks. McKee & Bell (1986) – Unemployed men resist pleas from partners to do more housework. British Social Attitudes Survey (1992) – certain household tasks have become more equal than others.
	Views on Housework	Rapoport and Rapoport (1970) - career women were still viewed as "wives and mothers". Ann Oakley Jointly, this does not mean equally', Men participating in domestic tasks are doing so to "help their wives". David Morley (1992) - 'women see the home as a place of work, men a place of leisure'. Craig (2007) – Women do 1/3 more housework than men due to the partnership penalty and marriage penalty.
	Same Sex couples	Dunne (1999) – Gay and lesbian couples are more equal and symmetrical than heterosexual ones. But if unequal earning then there was unequal division of domestic labour.

Domestic abuse is any incident or series of incidents of physical, psychological or sexual abuse by a current or previous partner.

The Triple Shift refers to the feminist idea that women have to take on not only paid work outside the home but also the majority of the domestic labour and emotional support of the family.

The Statistics

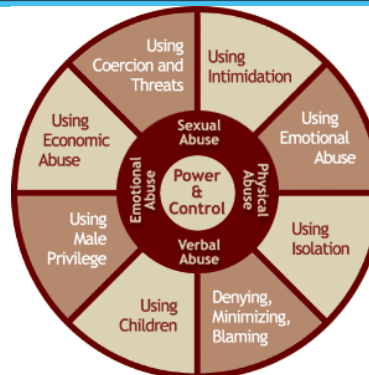
- **1 incident** of domestic violence is reported to the police every **minute**
- On average, **2 women a week** are killed by a current or former male partner.
- In 2015 **8.8% of men** (equivalent to 1.4 million men) and **20.1% of women** (3.3 million women) said they have experienced non sexual abuse since the age of 16.
- For every **3** victims of Domestic violence **2** will be women and 1 will be male.
- Nearly **1 in 4** women have been assaulted by a partner at some time in their life, and **1 in 8** repeatedly so
- **Yearshire** found that on average a woman suffers 35 assaults before making a report.

Impact of family life on career and job prospects:

- Fear that a women might become pregnant can limit promotion prospects.
- Women are seen as unreliable workers as they are more likely to take time off if a child is unwell.
- Women are seen as less committed to their careers after they have children compared to men, due to their roles at home.

Impact of Triple shift on women:

- **Green (1996)** – Women tend to see their free/Leisure time as time when they are away from both paid work and family commitments. Where as men consider any time away from paid work as free time.
- **Bernard (1982)** found that men were more satisfied with their marriage than their wives, who expressed feelings of emotional loneliness.
- **Oakley (1974)** found that women felt similar feelings of boredom and depression as those felt by line workers in factories.



Issues with Statistics on Domestic Violence

- **Cheal** found that state agencies (like police) are reluctant to get involved in the family because they assume that the family is private, good and individuals are free to leave if they wish.
- Victims don't report the abuse to the police
 - Fear of reprisal
 - Don't think they will be believed
 - Believe they are to blame.
- Some abuse is difficult to prove:
 - Emotional or psychological abuse
- **Dar:** Can be difficult to separate out incidents as it can be continuous or so often the victim can't accurately recall.

Theoretical perspectives on the causes of Domestic Violence

	Explanation	Evaluation
Radical Feminist	Dobash and Dobash – Domestic violence is evidence of patriarchy and caused by challenges to male authority. In recent years this can be linked to a crisis of masculinity where men are unsure of their place in society and strike out.	Elliot – not all men are violent. Men can be victims too. Some groups of women are more likely than others to be a victim.
New Right	Murray - Domestic violence only occurs in <i>Dysfunctional Families</i> . These families include those with teen parents, cohabitation and divorce over a stable marriage. There are higher rates of DV in lower classes due to a low moral standard.	DV is not limited to working class. Too much focus on violence compares to other forms of abuse.
Postmodernist	Giddens - Domestic Violence is caused by the emotional intensity and family life. The nature of family life makes domestic violence quite common as family life is characterized by emotional intensity and personal intimacy. Increasing isolation of nuclear family increases intensity and escalations to violence – lack of people to vent to.	Not all families are abusive. We choose our family structures so can have people to vent to who are not extended family.
Marxist Feminist	Wilkinson & Pickett - Domestic violence is the result of stress on family members caused by social inequality. Having less resources than others can lead to stress and violence out of frustration. Lack of time and money can reduce the social circle and people for support. Ansley – Women are takers of shit, men are frustrated by the oppression they feel at work and take this out on their wives.	Doesn't explain male victims DV is not limited to working class. Not all men are violent to their partners.

A Social Construction means that a social phenomena is not naturally occurring but instead is created by society and varies from culture to culture.

Biological Determination means that something including social phenomena is regulated by biology

A Child is a difficult term to define, legally it is someone below the age of majority, biologically it is someone before they hit puberty. Different cultures will also have different ideas on what a child is.

Childhood is the period of time that a person is considered to be a child.

No ← **Is childhood a social construction?** → Yes

Separateness: Pilcher	
Socially Separated	Childhood is a clear and distinct life stage, reflected in: Laws, Dress, Products and services, Age of innocence, Activity
Physical Immaturity	Children have not yet reach physical maturity. They have not yet reached puberty or sexual maturity, however full development doesn't end until mid 20's
Psychological Immaturity	Psychological development continues into the mid 20's.
Dominate Framework: James and Prout	
Children	Simple and Amoral See the world in black and white, only really concerned with themselves and don't look at the impact on others.
Adults	Complex and Moral Adults are able to see the world in shades of grey looking at multiple view points and have developed a moral compass for decision making.

Sensible Analytical Approach	
Definition	Different stages of development are more likely to be a social construction than others.
Explanation / Evidence	Infancy/Toddlers – Not a social construction due to the complete dependency of the infants on others for survival. This is universal not cultural. 5 – 12 age group – Could be considered a social construction as at this stage we start to see differences appear both intra culturally and inter culturally.
	13+ age group – This stage is more than likely a social construction because the differences both culturally and historically are much more apparent.

Cultural Relativity	
Explanation	BENEDICT - Childhood varies from culture to culture and within cultures itself.
Evidence	Intra Cultural Differences- In particular class differences.
	Inter Cultural Differences – Responsibilities and freedoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firth Tikopia Tribe • Punch – Bolivia • Milinowski – Trobriand Island
Historical Relativity	
Explanation	ARIES – Childhood has changed over time and what we now consider to be childhood is a modern construction.
Evidence	Pre industrial Era – Studied using paintings, found that children were considered mini adults with little variation in games, toys, clothing and culture. Children would work as soon as they were able.
	Industrial Era - The start of the modern concept of childhood, but children still worked in the factories, were treated the same as adults in the CJS. We start to see the development of child protection laws at this time.
	Modern era – Childhood is protected time of innocence and dependency which can last until late teens or early 20's. Children have a distinct separate culture to adults including toys game s and clothing.

March of Progress View

Overview

The 'march of progress' view argues that, over the past few centuries, the position of children in western societies **has been steadily improving and today is better than it has ever been.**

Conflict View

Overview

Children still experience conflict in society. Different children will have different experiences of childhood so some will be better for others,

Adult and Child conflict and inequality

Child liberationist view

Child Liberationists believe that childhood has become oppressive with adults using the excuse of protection to limit children's activities and create a culture of dependency. **Firestone** and **Holt** see what March of progress see as care and protect as just new forms of oppression and control. They see the need to free children from adult control.

Evidence

Legal

- Work Restrictions
- Compulsory Education
- Safeguarding in schools
- Juvenile V Adult legal systems

Rights of the Child

United Nations Rights of the child which states every child has basic fundamental rights. These include the right to:
Life, survival and development, Protection from **violence, abuse or neglect,** An **education** that enables children to **fulfil their potential,** Be **raised by,** or have a **relationship with, their parents**
Express their opinions and be **listened to.**
It also asks states to ensure under 18's are not forcibly recruited in to the armed forces, prohibition of child prostitution, pornography and slavery and allows children whose rights have been violated to complain directly to the UN

Protections and Welfare services

UK has a minister for Children and Families Social Services purpose is to protect children and support families.

Child Centeredness

Quality over Quantity.
Families have less children to ensure they can give the children they have the best possible start in life. Decisions are made with the best interests of the child in mind, from what to eat, to where to holiday and if to move house.

Intra-child conflict and inequality

Gender

Mayer Hillman (1993),

Boys and girls will have different experiences of childhood due to gender role socialisation. Boys are generally given more freedom at an earlier age than girls who are often socialised into the **bedroom culture** of more sedate and quiet activities such as reading and talking with friends.

Ethnicity

Julia Brannen (1994)

Ethnic groups will have different expectations on their children and at what age they would take on responsibilities. Brannen found that in Asian families for example parents were much stricter had held tighter on their daughters where as Bhatti (1999) found that the idea of *Izzat* (family honour) can have an impact on children's experiences.

Class

Woodroffe

Poor mothers are more likely to give birth to children of lower birth weight which can be linked to both delayed physical and mental development. Children from poor families are more likely to die in infancy or suffer long standing illness, be shorter in height and fall behind in school. They are also more likely to be on a child protection list for neglect.

Ways children are controlled by adults

Resources

Industrial societies have limited children's access to earning money so remain dependent on adults. This is achieved through:

- Compulsory education and labour laws.
- Child Benefit is given to the parent not the child
- Pocket Money.

Space

Children's movements particularly in western societies is highly regulated. For example children have specific areas where they are allowed to play and where they are not allowed to go, shops may restrict the number of school children or ban them entirely, Higher CCTV coverage in children's areas.

Time

Children have rather strict daily routines, especially during term time, but even in the holidays parents will control when children eat, sleep, watch TV etc. Parents also try to control how quickly children grow up by limiting responsibility or behaviour.

Bodies

Adults exercise great control over children's bodies including how they sit, walk, dress and are touched etc however they also control how children may touch their own bodies e.g. not picking their noses, or plying with their genitals.

Toxic Childhood means that rapid technological change and cultural changes have damaged children's health, emotional and psychological development.

Child Centeredness means that children become the centre of decision making in the family. Decisions are made with the best interests of the child in mind/ Children maybe consulted on family decisions and parents invest much more time and money in their children.

Information hierarchy means a division between those who can access information and those that can't. Prior to the invention of the internet this was much more pronounced.

Disappearing Childhood Thesis

Thinker: Neil Postman

Overview
Childhood as we know it is disappearing at a rapid rate due to the collapse of the information hierarchy.

- Evidence**
- Growth of technology gives children much more access to information and ways to participate in the adults world.
 - Children given the same rights as adults.
 - The blurring of adult and child culture with adults taking up elements of children's culture and children participating in adult culture.
 - Criminality of children – the committing of "adult" crimes such as murder and rape.

Evaluation
Opie – childhood is not disappearing but changing. There is still evidence of a separate children's' culture of unsupervised games, rhymes and songs.

Postman's theory is reductionist as it places the cause of the disappearance of childhood on the rise of television.

Toxic Childhood Thesis

Thinker: Sue Palmer

How
Childhood has become damaging to the physical, psychological and emotional health of young people. This is evidenced by the:

- **Increase in ADHD,**
- **Increase in substance abuse and self-harm**
- **Increase in mental health problems**

A UNICEF survey in 2013 ranked the UK **16th out of 29** for children's well being.

Why
According to Palmer the trend to 'toxic childhood' is the result of:

- Unhealthy food
- A lack of play in natural surroundings
- Poor sleep patterns
- Little time to interact within the family
- Decline in emotional security

"Every year children become more distractible, impulsive and self-obsessed. They are less able to learn, to enjoy life and to thrive socially." – Sue Palmer

Evaluation
Ethnocentric – Only looks at western ideas of childhood and cannot be applied to many developing nations.

This is not a new phenomena but we now have better understanding of mental health and wellbeing so it appears to be more toxic.

More information availability has made the dangers more well known which has led to more paranoid parenting.

Universal Childhood

Overview
West:
Western notion of childhood is spreading around the world.

- Evidence**
- Campaigns for universal education
 - Charities focused on helping street children and preventing child labour.
 - Globalised TV and media

New Sociology of Childhood

Current studies of childhood have been outside looking in and rarely include children in their data collect.

Mayall: Children as socialisation projects

BUT

Smart - Need to include the children in the study of childhood.

Mayall – focus on the present tense of childhood from a child's perspective.

Children are active agents playing a major part in creating their own childhoods By Using unstructured interviews to allow children to express their views. This approach is favoured by child liberationists.

	Definition	Trend	Reasons for the trend	Impact of the trends
Birth Rate	The number of live births per year per 1000 of the population	General Decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of Contraception • Changing roles of women • Decreasing in infant mortality Rate • Growth of Child Centeredness • Economic Factors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller families • Unequal dependency ratio • Few schools needed
Total fertility Rate	The average number of children a women will have during her childbearing years (15 – 45)	Decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of Contraception • Women leaving pregnancy to later in life • Changing attitudes to child bearing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few Health and Maternity services needed. • Vanishing Children – Lonelier childhood due to less friends.
Death Rate	The number of deaths per 1000 of the population per year.	Decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Nutrition • Medical Care • Public health Measures • Decline in dangerous occupations • Life style changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children become more precious • Aging Population
Infant mortality Rate	The number of deaths of children before their first birthday per 1000 live births per year.	Decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved housing and sanitation • Better nutrition • Improved pre and post natal understanding • Improved health of the mother • Improved knowledge of Hygiene. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bigger strain on public services such as health care and housing. • Increasing in single person households
Life expectancy	The average number of years a person can expect to live within a specific culture and gender.	Increasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased infant mortality • Less dangerous working conditions • Better health care and nutrition • Social Care facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy implications such as social housing and Pensions
Aging population	The extent to which a population is living longer but are not matched by the number of new births.	Increasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased life expectancy • Declining infant mortality • Declining fertility 	
Migration	the movement of peoples from one place to another, it can be in the same county or to another country.	Increasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War, Poverty, Lack of job opportunities or oppressive government. • Pull Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare state, Education systems, Standard of living, Weather, job Opportunities. • Legislation and Boarder Controls • Globalisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Diversity • Duel Heritage and hybrid Identities

The dependency ratio is an age-population ratio of those typically not in the labour force (Children and Elderly) and those typically in the labour force.

Ageism means prejudice or discrimination on the grounds of a person's age.

Structural dependency means the process by which some people in society receive an unequal share in the results of social production

Net Migration means the difference in the number of people leaving a country compared to the number of people coming in

Immigration means moving into a country that is not your country of origin.

Emigration means leaving your country origin to go to another country.

Globalisation means the growing interconnectedness of cultures and societies around the world, due to technological advances.