3.1 Functions of the Family: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Show your understanding by using sociological vocabulary and, where asked, your own examples.

1 Explain one way the family's economic function has changed over time.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 For each description below, state which of Murdock's four functions is being performed.

(a) A married couple save money to pay the household's rent and buy food each week. **(1)**

(b) New parents begin teaching their toddler basic table manners and how to greet visitors politely. **(1)**

(c) A married couple keep their romantic and sexual relationship exclusive to each other. **(1)**

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

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3 State one strength of the functionalist view of the family's functions.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 State one criticism that can be made of Murdock's claim that the family performs four essential functions in every society.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.1 Functions of the Family: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a genuine change, e.g. families used to produce most of their own food, clothing and other goods, but today most goods are bought ready-made **B1**

brief development, e.g. or that the welfare state now provides some financial support (such as benefits) that used to depend entirely on the family **B1**

Answer: Families used to produce most of their own food, clothing and goods themselves; today most goods are bought ready-made, and the welfare state also provides some financial support families once had to provide alone.

Question 2

(a) economic **B1**

(a) Answer: Economic

(b) educational (socialisation) **B1**

(b) Answer: Educational (socialisation)

(c) sexual **B1**

(c) Answer: Sexual

Question 3

identifies a genuine strength, e.g. it highlights real, practical needs (such as care of children and economic support) that most families do provide in some form **B1**

brief development, e.g. this helps explain why some form of family or household is found in almost every known society **B1**

Answer: It highlights real, practical needs, such as care of children and economic support, that most families do provide in some form, which helps explain why some kind of family or household exists in almost every known society.

Question 4

identifies a recognised criticism, e.g. other family forms (such as lone-parent or reconstituted families) can also perform these functions, so a single 'universal' nuclear family is not required **B1**

brief development, e.g. or that other institutions (such as schools, the state or paid childcare) now perform some of these functions instead of the family **B1**

Answer: Critics argue other family forms, such as lone-parent families, can also perform these functions, and other institutions such as schools or the state now take on some of them, so a single 'universal' nuclear family is not required.

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