3.1 Functions of the Family: Test Pack

AQA 8192 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

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

1 Which sociologist identified four functions that he argued were performed by families in every society he studied?

- [ ] A) Talcott Parsons
- [ ] B) George Murdock
- [ ] C) Friedrich Engels
- [ ] D) Ann Oakley

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Explain one way the family still performs an important function for society today.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 State one criticism that can be made of the Marxist view of the family's functions.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 Give an example of an institution, other than the family, that today shares in the socialisation of children, and explain how.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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5 Define what sociologists mean by the 'function' of an institution such as the family.

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

6 The Marxist sociologist Eli Zaretsky (1976) argued that the family serves an ideological role under capitalism. Explain Zaretsky's argument about the ideological role of the family under capitalism.

(Total for Question 6 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.1 Functions of the Family: Test Pack

Question 1

B (George Murdock) **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

identifies a genuine ongoing function, e.g. the family still provides most young children's earliest care and early learning of language/behaviour, before school **B1**

brief development, e.g. this early care and socialisation continues to shape children's basic habits and relationships throughout their lives **B1**

Answer: The family still provides most young children's earliest care and their first learning of language and behaviour, before school, which continues to shape their habits and relationships.

Question 3

identifies a recognised criticism, e.g. it focuses heavily on economic/class factors and may understate the real emotional support and personal satisfaction family life can provide **B1**

brief development, e.g. or that not all families are equally wealthy or property-owning, so the link to protecting private property may apply less to poorer families **B1**

Answer: Critics argue the Marxist view focuses heavily on economic/class factors and may understate the real emotional support family life can provide, and that the link to protecting property may apply less to poorer, non-property-owning families.

Question 4

a correct example, e.g. school **B1**

brief explanation, e.g. schools teach children rules, routines and shared values (such as respecting others and following instructions), alongside the family **B1**

Answer: School: schools teach children rules, routines and shared values, such as respecting others and following instructions, alongside the family.

Question 5

a function is the useful purpose/contribution an institution makes to meeting the needs of individuals or society (oe) **B1**

development, e.g. functionalists see institutions like the family as existing because they perform jobs that help society run smoothly **B1**

Answer: A function is the useful purpose an institution serves in meeting the needs of individuals or society, e.g. functionalists see the family as performing jobs that help society run smoothly.

Question 6

identifies that Zaretsky argued the family is presented as a private 'haven' separate from the harsh, competitive world of paid work **B1**

development, e.g. this makes family life feel like a personal refuge from capitalism, even though the family itself developed as part of capitalist society **B1**

identifies that unpaid domestic labour within the family (e.g. cooking, cleaning, childcare) reproduces workers' labour power, ready to return to paid work **B1**

development, e.g. Zaretsky argued this hidden economic role means the family actually helps capitalism function, rather than being fully separate from it **B1**

Answer: Zaretsky argued the family is presented as a private 'haven' from the world of paid work, but unpaid domestic labour within it reproduces workers' labour power (e.g. through cooking, cleaning, childcare), so the family's 'private' role actually helps capitalism function.

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