3.3 Conjugal Roles and the Domestic Division of Labour: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

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

1 State one weakness of using interviews, like Hochschild's, to study conjugal roles.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Explain two reasons sociologists give for why change in conjugal roles has been gradual rather than sudden.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 Define what is meant by a 'second shift'.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

4 Explain how changes in technology may have affected conjugal roles.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 Evaluate the view that conjugal roles in the UK have become genuinely equal. In your answer you should refer to sociologists' views and consider more than one perspective.

(Total for Question 5 is 12 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 3.3 Conjugal Roles and the Domestic Division of Labour: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a genuine weakness, e.g. people may not always answer honestly, for example exaggerating how much housework they do to appear fair or hardworking	**B1**
brief development, e.g. this could make actual sharing of tasks look more equal than it really is	**B1**

Answer: People may not always answer honestly in interviews, for example exaggerating how much housework they do, which could make sharing of tasks look more equal than it really is.

Question 2

identifies one reason, e.g. deep-rooted cultural expectations about men's and women's roles change slowly, even when circumstances such as women's employment change quickly	**B1**
development	**B1**
identifies a second, different reason, e.g. workplaces have been slow to fully support men taking on more caring responsibilities, for example through flexible hours or parental leave uptake	**B1**
development	**B1**

Answer: Cultural expectations about men's and women's roles change slowly, even when circumstances like women's employment change quickly, and workplaces have been slow to fully support men taking on more caring responsibilities, for example through flexible hours.

Question 3

identifies the unpaid housework and childcare many women do after finishing paid work (oe)	**B1**
development, e.g. Hochschild found this meant many working mothers effectively worked a second, unpaid job at home	**B1**

Answer: A 'second shift' is the unpaid housework and childcare many women do after finishing paid work, meaning they effectively work a second, unpaid job at home.

Question 4

identifies that labour-saving devices, e.g. washing machines, ready meals and online shopping, reduce the total time housework takes	**B1**
development, e.g. this can make it more realistic for tasks to be shared, since no single task takes as long as it once did	**B1**
identifies that some technology, e.g. remote or flexible working, can make it easier for either partner to be at home during the day	**B1**
development, e.g. this can support a more equal division of childcare and household management	**B1**

Answer: Labour-saving devices such as washing machines and online shopping reduce how long housework takes, making sharing more realistic, while technology enabling remote or flexible working can make it easier for either partner to be at home, supporting more equal childcare.

Question 5

Level 4 A detailed, well-balanced evaluation that accurately explains BOTH evidence of genuine progress towards equality AND evidence that full equality has not been reached, supported by accurate reference to named sociologists. Strengths and weaknesses of each view are analysed, and a reasoned, supported judgement is reached. Sociological terminology is used accurately and consistently throughout.	**10-12**
Level 3 A clear evaluation that explains both sides of the debate, with some accurate reference to sociologists. Some analysis of strengths/weaknesses. An attempt at a conclusion, which may be only partly supported.	**7-9**
Level 2 Some relevant explanation of one or both sides of the debate, with limited development or accuracy. Little clear evaluation or comparison between views.	**4-6**
Level 1 One or two isolated, undeveloped points about conjugal roles, with little or no sociological terminology or accurate detail.	**1-3**
Level 0 No relevant content.	**0**

Indicative content:

- Evidence for genuine progress: Gershuny's time-use diary research found men's share of housework has gradually risen as more women took full-time paid work, a process he called 'lagged adaptation'; policies such as shared parental leave and more flexible or remote working can support a more equal division of childcare.
- Further support: rising numbers of women in full-time paid work and, in some sectors, smaller pay gaps reduce the practical case for one partner, usually the woman, doing all unpaid work by default.
- Evidence against full equality: Hochschild's (1989) research found many women did a 'second shift' of housework and childcare after paid work, and sometimes a 'third shift' of emotional labour managing feelings about the imbalance.
- Further evidence against: social class and income affect how equal roles can be, e.g. lower-income couples may have less flexibility for either partner to reduce paid hours.
- Evaluation of the 'progress' case: critics argue slow, gradual change, as Gershuny found, is not the same as equality, and that self-reported 'sharing' can overstate how equal contributions really are.
- Evaluation of the 'not equal' case: critics argue it may understate real change since the 1980s, when Hochschild's original research took place, including newer policies such as shared parental leave.
- A balanced conclusion should weigh clear evidence of a long-term trend towards sharing against evidence that full, consistent equality has not yet been reached for most couples.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk