3.6 Criticisms of the Family, Including the Dark Side: 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 term do sociologists use to describe negative aspects of family life, such as conflict, inequality or abuse, that functionalist theories tend to overlook?

- ☐ A) The dark side of the family
- ☐ B) The beanpole family
- ☐ C) The pure relationship
- ☐ D) The second shift

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Explain one type of support, such as a helpline or refuge, available in the UK to someone experiencing domestic abuse.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 State one strength of feminist perspectives for understanding the 'dark side' of family life.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Define what sociologists mean by 'the dark side of the family'.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

5 Explain what sociologists mean when they say the family can have a 'dark side', with reference to domestic abuse.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.6 Criticisms of the Family, Including the Dark Side: Test Pack

Question 1

A (the dark side of the family) **B1**

Answer: A

Question 2

identifies a genuine, appropriate example, e.g. a national domestic abuse helpline, or a women's refuge/safe accommodation **B1**

brief development, e.g. these services offer confidential advice, support and, where needed, a safe place to stay **B1**

Answer: A national domestic abuse helpline, or a women's refuge, offers confidential advice, support and, where needed, a safe place to stay for someone experiencing domestic abuse.

Question 3

identifies a genuine strength, e.g. feminist perspectives draw attention to inequality and harm within families that other perspectives, such as functionalism, can overlook **B1**

brief development, e.g. this has helped bring issues such as the unequal division of domestic labour and domestic abuse into mainstream sociological study **B1**

Answer: Feminist perspectives draw attention to inequality and harm within families that functionalism can overlook, helping bring issues such as domestic abuse and unequal domestic labour into mainstream sociological study.

Question 4

identifies that this term refers to negative or harmful aspects of family life, such as conflict, inequality, neglect or abuse (oe) **B1**

development, e.g. sociologists use the term to challenge overly positive, harmonious pictures of family life given by some perspectives **B1**

Answer: The 'dark side of the family' refers to negative or harmful aspects of family life, such as conflict, inequality or abuse, used by sociologists to challenge overly positive pictures of family life.

Question 5

identifies that domestic abuse, which can include physical, emotional or financial abuse, can occur within some families, challenging the idea that the family is always a safe place **B1**

development, e.g. sociologists and support organisations recognise that women are disproportionately affected as victims, though anyone in a family can be affected **B1**

identifies that feminist sociologists in particular have argued mainstream sociology historically paid too little attention to domestic abuse when studying family life **B1**

development, e.g. this connects to the wider feminist critique that functionalist accounts present too positive a picture of family life **B1**

Answer: Domestic abuse, which can include physical, emotional or financial abuse, can occur within some families; women are disproportionately affected as victims, and feminists argue mainstream sociology historically paid too little attention to this, connecting to a wider critique of overly positive functionalist accounts.

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