3.7-2 Family Diversity and Family Forms (Set 2): 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 Feminist sociologists have criticised the idealised image of the traditional nuclear family. Explain feminist criticisms of the idealised image of the traditional nuclear family.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Evaluate the view that the decline of the traditional nuclear family is a serious problem for society. In your answer you should refer to sociologists' views and consider more than one perspective.

(Total for Question 2 is 12 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

3 Define the term 'nuclear family'.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

---

4 The nuclear family is not the only family form in the UK today.

(a) Define 'extended family', giving an example. **(2)**

(b) Define 'lone-parent family', giving an example of a reason a family might become a lone-parent family. **(2)**

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

---

5 Identify two changes in UK society that sociologists link to the rise in the number of lone-parent families.

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 3.7-2 Family Diversity and Family Forms (Set 2): 30-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies the idealised media image of the nuclear family, sometimes called the 'cereal packet family' (a term coined by the anthropologist Edmund Leach), which feminist sociologists such as Ann Oakley went on to criticise	**B1**
explains that this image (a working father, a homemaker mother, and happy children) presents the nuclear family as natural and universally desirable	**B1**
development, e.g. feminists such as Oakley argue this image disguises real inequality within many nuclear families, particularly an unequal division of domestic labour	**B1**
further development, e.g. treating the nuclear family as the 'ideal' can make other family forms, such as lone-parent families, seem abnormal or inferior by comparison	**B1**

Answer: The idealised 'cereal packet family' image of the nuclear family (a term coined by the anthropologist Edmund Leach) was criticised by feminists such as Ann Oakley, who argued it presents an unequal division of domestic labour as natural and can unfairly make other family forms, such as lone-parent families, seem abnormal by comparison.

Question 2

Level 4 A detailed, well-balanced evaluation that accurately explains BOTH the New Right/functionalist case that family change is a problem AND the feminist/postmodernist case that family diversity is not a problem, 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 family change, with little or no sociological terminology or accurate detail.	**1-3**
Level 0 No relevant content.	**0**

Indicative content:

- New Right/functionalist case: Parsons argued the nuclear family developed a 'functional fit' with industrial society; the New Right, drawing on Charles Murray's underclass thesis, argues that a decline in married, two-parent families and a rise in lone parenthood is linked to social problems such as low educational achievement and crime.
- Supporting evidence for this case: Murdock's four universal functions (sexual, reproductive, economic, educational) suggest the family plays an essential role that some argue is harder to fulfil reliably outside a stable two-parent structure.
- Feminist/postmodernist case: Rapoport and Rapoport's five types of family diversity show that varied family forms have always existed in Britain, not just recently; Ann Oakley's critique of the idealised 'cereal packet family' argues the traditional nuclear family disguised real inequality rather than representing an ideal worth preserving.
- Supporting evidence for this case: Judith Stacey's concept of the postmodern and divorce-extended family suggests that increased choice and diversity reflects positive social change (e.g. more freedom to leave unhappy or unequal marriages), not moral or social decline.
- Evaluation of the New Right/functionalist case: critics argue it can unfairly blame lone parents for problems that are actually caused by poverty or lack of support, and treats one family type as 'normal' when diversity has always existed.
- Evaluation of the feminist/postmodernist case: critics argue it may understate real difficulties some family forms can face (for example, the practical and financial pressures on some lone-parent families), and that not everyone experiences family change as a free 'choice'.
- A balanced conclusion should weigh the New Right's concern about social outcomes against the feminist/postmodernist argument that diversity reflects greater freedom and was never as rare as the 'decline' narrative suggests, without presenting either side as simply correct.

Question 3

a family made up of two generations: parent(s) and their dependent child(ren) (oe)	**B1**
development, e.g. living together in one household, separate from wider relatives	**B1**

Answer: A two-generation family of parent(s) and dependent children, living together in one household, separate from wider relatives.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Question 4

(a) a family that includes relatives beyond the nuclear family (oe) **B1**

(a) a correct example, e.g. grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins living together or in close, regular contact **B1**

(a) Answer: A family that includes relatives beyond parents and children, e.g. grandparents living with or near the family and in regular contact.

(b) a family in which dependent children live with only one parent (oe) **B1**

(b) a correct reason, e.g. divorce or separation, the death of a partner, or a parent choosing to raise a child alone **B1**

(b) Answer: A family where dependent children live with only one parent, e.g. as a result of divorce, separation or a parent's own choice.

Question 5

one correct change, e.g. a rise in the divorce rate **B1**

a second, different correct change, e.g. a rise in births outside marriage, or a rise in relationship separation among cohabiting couples **B1**

Answer: Any two of: a rise in the divorce rate; a rise in births outside marriage; more couples separating.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk