3.3-2 Conjugal Roles and the Domestic Division of Labour (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 State one strength of using in-depth interviews, like those Ann Oakley used, to study conjugal roles.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 In 1957, the sociologist Elizabeth Bott studied how couples divided tasks and how this related to their wider social networks.

(a) Explain what Bott meant by 'segregated conjugal roles'. **(2)**

(b) Explain what Bott meant by 'joint conjugal roles'. **(2)**

(c) Explain how Bott linked the type of conjugal roles a couple had to the type of social network around them. **(2)**

(Total for Question 2 is 6 marks)

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3 In 1974, the feminist sociologist Ann Oakley published a study challenging the symmetrical family thesis. Explain how Ann Oakley's study challenged the symmetrical family thesis.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

4 The sociologists Jean Duncombe and Dennis Marsden (1995) used the term 'triple shift' to describe some women's workload. Define the triple shift.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

5 Explain two factors that can affect how equal conjugal roles are within a couple.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

6 Discuss the extent to which conjugal roles have become more equal in the UK. In your answer you should refer to sociologists' views.

(Total for Question 6 is 9 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.3-2 Conjugal Roles and the Domestic Division of Labour (Set 2): 30-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a genuine strength, e.g. interviews let people describe their home life in detail and in their own words **B1**

brief development, e.g. this can reveal inequalities within the home that a short questionnaire might miss **B1**

Answer: Interviews let people describe their home life in detail and in their own words, which can reveal inequalities that a short questionnaire might miss.

Question 2

(a) clearly separate roles for each partner, e.g. the husband as main earner, the wife as main homemaker **B1**

(a) development, e.g. leisure time is usually spent separately too, for example the husband with male friends and the wife with female relatives **B1**

(a) Answer: Clearly separate roles, e.g. husband as main earner and wife as main homemaker, with leisure time also usually spent apart, for example the husband with male friends.

(b) shared roles between partners, e.g. both partners contribute to housework, childcare and decision-making **B1**

(b) development, e.g. leisure time is also usually shared, spent together rather than separately **B1**

(b) Answer: Shared roles between partners, e.g. both contributing to housework, childcare and decisions, with leisure time also usually shared together.

(c) identifies that Bott linked segregated conjugal roles to 'close-knit' social networks, where a couple's friends/relatives mostly knew each other, e.g. in a tight traditional working-class community **B1**

(c) identifies that Bott linked joint conjugal roles to 'loose-knit' social networks, where a couple's friends/relatives were more scattered and did not all know each other, for example after a family had moved away from their original community **B1**

(c) Answer: Bott linked segregated roles to close-knit networks (a couple's friends/relatives mostly know each other, typical of a tight traditional community) and joint roles to loose-knit networks (contacts more scattered and unconnected, e.g. after moving away).

Question 3

identifies Oakley's study, 'The Sociology of Housework' (1974), which was based on interviews with women in London who were full-time housewives **B1**

explains that Oakley found most husbands did not share housework and childcare equally with their wives **B1**

development, e.g. many husbands only occasionally 'helped' with particular tasks, rather than taking equal responsibility for the home **B1**

development/conclusion, e.g. this directly challenged Young and Willmott's claim that the fully symmetrical family had become the norm **B1**

Answer: Oakley's 1974 study interviewed London housewives and found most husbands did not share housework and childcare equally; many only occasionally 'helped', which challenged Young and Willmott's claim that the symmetrical family had become the norm.

Question 4

identifies the three elements: paid work, domestic/housework, and 'emotion work' (managing feelings and relationships within the family) **B1**

development, e.g. Duncombe and Marsden argued many women carry out all three, even when their husbands share some housework **B1**

Answer: The 'triple shift' describes women carrying out paid work, domestic work and 'emotion work' (managing feelings and relationships in the family), even when husbands share some housework.

Question 5

one factor, e.g. whether both partners work full-time **B1**

development, e.g. if one partner works part-time or not at all, they often end up doing more of the housework and childcare **B1**

a second, different factor, e.g. cultural or religious expectations about men's and women's roles **B1**

development, e.g. some cultural or religious traditions expect more clearly separated roles, making joint conjugal roles less likely **B1**

Answer: Whether both partners work full-time (a part-time or non-working partner often ends up doing more domestic work) and cultural/religious expectations about men's and women's roles (some traditions expect more clearly separated roles).

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Question 6

Level 3 A detailed, balanced discussion that develops evidence for increasing equality AND evidence against it, supported by accurate reference to named sociologists, reaching a supported conclusion. Sociological terminology is used accurately throughout.	**7-9**
Level 2 A clear discussion of evidence for and/or against increasing equality, with some development and some accurate reference to sociologists. Limited attempt at a balanced conclusion.	**4-6**
Level 1 One or more isolated, undeveloped points about conjugal roles, with little or no reference to sociologists' views.	**1-3**
Level 0 No relevant content.	**0**

Indicative content:

- Evidence for increasing equality: Young and Willmott's (1973) 'symmetrical family' thesis argued conjugal roles had become more joint, with husbands and wives increasingly sharing housework, childcare and home-centred leisure.
- Bott's (1957) research suggests joint conjugal roles are linked to loose-knit social networks, which have become more common as families have become more geographically mobile.
- Evidence against increasing equality: Ann Oakley's 1974 study found that most husbands did not share housework and childcare equally with their wives, directly challenging the symmetrical family claim.
- Duncombe and Marsden's (1995) concept of the 'triple shift' suggests many women continue to carry paid work, domestic work and emotion work together, even in households where some housework is shared.
- Jan Pahl's (1989) research on money management shows that even where couples pool some income, control over spending decisions is not always shared equally.
- A balanced conclusion should weigh Young and Willmott's evidence of a long-term trend towards sharing against the feminist evidence (Oakley, Duncombe and Marsden) that full equality has not yet been reached, rather than presenting either as simply correct.

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