
Paper 1 The Family

Section A

Question 1

1 In his 1949 study George Murdock claimed that some form of family existed in all societies. This was based on his examination of 250 societies. Murdock defined the family as a social group that shares a residence, co-operates economically and produces at least one child. This child (or children) is the offspring, whether own or adopted, of two adults in an approved sexual relationship who are from the social group. Within this definition Murdock allowed for a great deal of *family diversity* in the structure of the social group. The smallest family group, as identified by Murdock, is the nuclear family.

Murdock's work has given rise to a great deal of debate within sociology as to whether the family is universal or not and if households which do not fit into his definition can in fact be called families.

- (a) What is meant by the term *family diversity*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** examples of households which do not fit into Murdock's definition of the family. [4]
- (c) Explain why the family may be changing in modern industrial societies. [8]
- (d) Assess the view that the nuclear family is the main type of family structure in all societies. [11]

Mark scheme

1 (a) What is meant by the term *family diversity*? [2]

1 mark for a partial definition such as when there are lots of different types of families or answers that list different types of families.

2 marks for an accurate definition such as when there is a range of family structures.

(b) Describe two examples of households which do not fit into Murdock's definition of the family. [4]

2 marks available for each example. 1 mark for identification **or** development only, 2 marks for identification **and** development.

Points that can be included are matrifocal or matriarchal families (or specifically named families such as the Nayar), same sex families, childless couples, empty nesters, friends, children's homes (orphanages), single/lone parent families.

1. Identification of points alone without development, such as single parent families, or simple responses such as friends or cohabiting couples.
2. A detailed response might be that Murdock would not consider single parent families to be a family because in spite of the fact they share a residence and economic cooperation between parent and children. There are not two adults in a sexually approved relationship in the home.

(c) Explain why the family may be changing in modern industrial societies. [8]

L1 0–4 A few simple points about the topic with no direct reference to the question could be worth 1 or 2 marks.

Descriptions of why individual roles may be changing rather than changing social factors to be found in families alone may be worth 1 or 2 marks. Answers that confuse 'how' with 'why' place in this level.

Better answers at this level would identify one or two points, such as fewer children in families, more mothers in paid employment, but there will be little depth in the explanations offered and the answer will rely on description.

L2 5–8 A sound explanation of the ways families may be changing but which is somewhat implicit or partial, would fit the lower part of this level.

At this level, answers will not confuse 'how' families may be changing with 'why' they may be undergoing social change.

At the bottom of the level, may be limited to social factors that are influencing families such as changing social pressures, patterns of employment and availability of contraception. Other factors that could be referred to can include family diversity and the influence of migration.

To go higher (7–8 marks), the explanation needs to be explicit and well informed.

Answers may attempt to outline the topic in the question by considering such issues as the continuing popularity of nuclear families, the majority of couples marry, most children are brought up by their parents in nuclear families and most divorcees remarry forming reconstituted families. **Or** give specific detail about a range of factors that have influenced family change.

At the top of the level, place answers according to the depth and/or range of examples explained and supported by reference to theory or empirical data.

NB This question asks candidates to 'explain' therefore there is no requirement for assessment. But do not penalise candidates who do this.

(d) Assess the view that the nuclear family is the main type of family structure in all societies. [11]

NB This question does not specify MIS so allow accurate references to all societies.

L1 0–4 Answers at this level are likely to show only limited appreciation of the predominance, or not, of nuclear families.

Lower at this level, a simple answer that identifies a few basic points such as why nuclear families remain important perhaps backed up by some statistics would gain 1 or 2 marks.

Higher at this level, an answer might advance a few limited observations about the differences to be found in family structures.

General descriptions of how Murdock came to his conclusions may go to the top of the level.

Other answers which offer short descriptive accounts of **either** societies where other family forms dominate **or** those who criticise his work, perhaps by quoting Oakley, may also go to the top of the band. At this level answers are likely to consider only one view.

L2 5–8 Answers at this level show some sociological knowledge and understanding. A simplistic description of the way in which the nuclear family is to be found in all societies, as well as examples of how other family types are developing could gain 5 or 6 marks.

At this level, answers may be supported by ideas such as isolated nuclear family and modified extended families. Answers of this type are likely to concentrate on theorists such as Murdock and Parsons and the suitability of the nuclear family for modern industrial societies.

Other answers may wholly or partially reject the idea of the nuclear family remaining dominant, by describing a range of other family types to be found in society, or make reference to such societies as that of the Nayer.

Higher at this level, a more detailed account that questions the proposition would gain 7 or 8 marks.

Award marks for answers that consider both sides of the argument that nuclear families are found in all societies but that diversity is to be found in most societies as well. At this level this may be by juxtaposition rather than direct assessment. There is likely to be some use of theorists or empirical data to support points at this level and answers should offer a sound attempt to contrast views, most probably from functionalist and examples of diversity such as Rapoport and Rapoport.

Conversely, a one-sided answer that is done very well, could also gain up to 8 marks.

- L3 9–11 Answers at this level should provide a detailed account of the way in which the nuclear family is to be found in all societies or not, as well as how factors such as the life cycle of the family may account for some of the differences.

Some answers may highlight different societies and the existence not only of extended families but also of other alternative family forms. There may be an attempt to assess the way in which this can be interpreted, probably from feminist and functionalist positions.

Lower at this level (9–10 marks), the assessment may be based on a simple juxtaposition of two views, or may be confined to just one view with one or two evaluative points.

At the top of the level, the question will be evaluated explicitly and in reasonable depth.

The notion of the dominance, or not, of the nuclear family will be directly addressed probably by consideration diversity, or of the continuing existence of the nuclear family, with conclusive points. There is likely to be use of other points such as Sheeran and the female-carer core or same sex families.

Other issues can be included, such as relationships within nuclear families as well as family ideology.

Concepts such as risk and the negotiated family, divorce-extended family, life course analysis, neo-conventional family can be referred to. Evaluative answers can be supported by such evidence as family life cycle that shows that most individuals will spend some period of time in a nuclear family.

Example candidate response – grade A

- a. Family diversity is used to refer to the increasing number of variations within family and household types in modern industrial societies. It has gained popularity as family diversity is ever increasing in terms of organizational, class, life cycle, cohort and ethnic diversity. 2✓
- b. Murdock's definition of the family is considered too narrow to include all socially approved relationships which may be regarded as families. One example is lesbian and gay families within this type; two adults of both sexes are not present and this is therefore excluded from his definition. Another example is a lone-parent household because of divorce or pregnancy through new reproductive technology where adults of both sexes are not present and they do not reside together or cooperate economically. 2✓
- c. In modern industrial societies, because of the decrease in importance of marriage, the family is seen to be at risk. In traditional societies, the image of the family is of the conventional nuclear family with a male breadwinner and female caregiver. In modern industrial societies, however, because of the increased diversity and individualisation, the typical family is seen to be changing. The increased liberalization of women has led to marked differences as there are more educational and career opportunities available for them. This makes them financially independent and marriage becomes a matter of choice rather than a necessity. With this development, women are having fewer children and marrying later which has led to declining birth and fertility rates. They are more aware of their rights and are less likely to stay in an unsatisfactory marriage, leading to a high rate of divorce. Therefore, ✓

There has been an increase in lone-parent and reconstituted families, moving away from the conventional picture of the family. Furthermore, the idea of 'chosen families' is introduced through open gay and lesbian relationships which show that there is increased choice for individuals. Individualisation, according to Beck and Beck-Gernheim, leads to individuals thinking about themselves above the needs of others. Numerous alternative forms such as cohabitation and new reproductive technologies have added an entire new dimension to the concept of family. The concept of nuclear family replacing conventional extended families can be questioned because there is contradictory evidence as to what sort of family structure existed in traditional societies. According to functionalists like Parson, the family has lost its functions to specialised institutions such as businesses and schools and therefore the nuclear family is more suitable for the needs of modern industrial societies in terms of its size and geographical mobility. These four structures in the family are changing due to social reasons leading to the emancipation of women and political reasons such as easier divorce laws and equal rights for married couples and cohabitants. It is also changing because of the ever-increasing diversity in family and household structures and post-modernists believe that it is useless to try to trace a life course because of the vast range of choices available to individuals.

Comprehensive
and supported by

d. According to Murdock's study of 250 societies, the family is universal and the nuclear family is the basic unit of family in all societies. His study has been argued by the research of sociologists such as Kathleen Gough of the Nayar tribe

where there is no nuclear family and females are allowed to have as many male partners as they desire and are the responsibility of their male kin. Studies like these show that the concept of the nuclear family is not universal. A growing trend in single parent families also negates his theory as usually these households are headed by females and the male head of household is missing.

In Young and Wilmott's study of the historical development of society, they claim that the family has undergone four stages and has transformed from extended families in traditional societies to nuclear families in modern societies. Parson's theory is in line with this research and believes that the nuclear family is best suited to modern industrial societies because of its small size which makes it more geographically mobile and because of the conflict that may arise within ^{extended} families with the introduction of ascribed and achieved status.

Anderson's research flips this argument and claims that the prevalence of nuclear families in the Western world has led to industrialization. He found that much of the people were living in nuclear families in traditional societies as well because of high infant mortality rates and high death rates. Because this family structure suited the needs of the industrialized society, the western world was the first to experience industrialization.

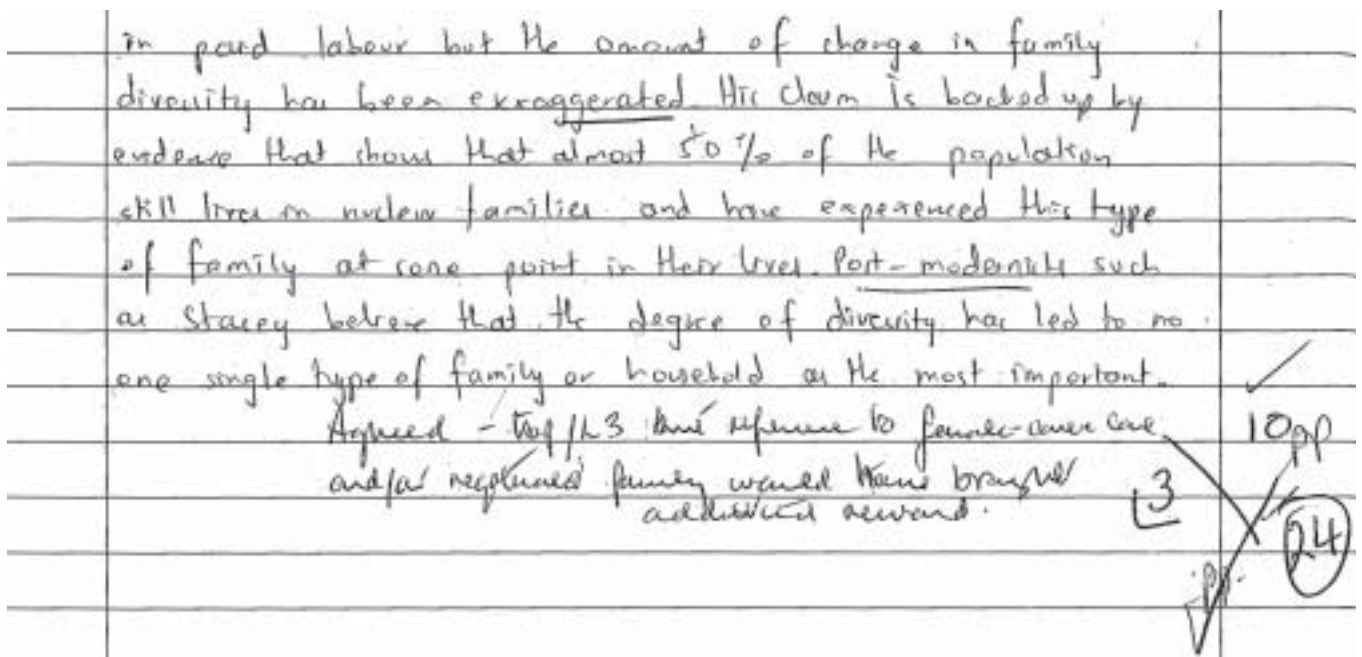
Peter Laslett found evidence that suggested that after the industrial revolution, low wages and high unemployment led to the making of extended families as they needed each other's help to survive, especially for the working class. This meant reduced living costs and the sharing of the burden of everyday life with close kin. However, all these theories take no account of diversity in families due to religion.

er ethnic background.

The alternatives to the nuclear family refute the assumption that it is the main type of family structure. Leach terms it as the 'cereal packet image of the family' and one that is not reflective of the reality. The emergence of concepts of cohabitation, births outside marriage and single person households shows that the nuclear family is not the centre anymore. Lesbian and gay relationships and other family diversities, first introduced by the Rapaports shows that there is less and less focus on the typical family. Gibson says that the increase in consumer choice has led people to believe that if they are not happy with one partner, they may choose another which reduces the importance of nuclear family. The British Social Attitudes Survey showed that there is much less stigma and much more acceptance associated with cohabitation and births outside marriage.

Researchers like MacLure et al highlight the importance that family relations other than immediate ones remain important. More than 90% of people with living parents see them less than several times a year and the reliance and support from extended family is still regarded as important.

It may be seen that the New Right politicians may be passing legislation in favour of nuclear families but in recent times, this has changed with increased laws for lesbian and gay partners such as the Civil Partnership Act and cohabitants also. This acceptance of family diversity by the state as well as religious organizations as the church show the decreased amount of significance that the nuclear family has in recent times. Chester, however, remains adamant that conventional families have been replaced by neo-conventional families where the only difference is that more women are employed.



Examiner comment – grade A

- (a) This candidate clearly and correctly demonstrates an understanding of the meaning of diversity by identifying family variations which are linked to structures and so gains full marks. Although the comments on the types of diversity are accurate they are not necessary.

Mark awarded = 2 out of 2

- (b) The candidate began with a comment about the nature of Murdock's definition that was not required by the question. The candidate then went on to clearly outline the gay/lesbian family as one that did not fit his definition and therefore gained two marks. A second example was then identified, the lone-parent household, and a reason why it does not fit into Murdock's definition explained gaining another two marks.

Mark awarded = 4 out of 4

- (c) The candidate began by clearly identifying why the family may be changing through a decrease in the importance of marriage, the growth of family diversity and individualism (individualisation). They then developed a very cogent description of the way in which the role of women has changed in society and how this has impacted on the family and family life. This was then developed into the types of family that may have emerged and was well supported with concepts such as 'the chosen' family. The use of appropriate concepts is one way in which candidates can show the skills of knowledge and understanding as well as demonstrate application by including the appropriate concepts in their answer. The candidate selected theory effectively referring to functionalists and post modernists and in using both Parsons and more contemporary sociologist such as Beck.

Mark awarded = 8 out of 8

- (d)** A clear understanding of the work of Murdock began this answer and the candidate displayed a good understanding of the question by contrasting this to the work of Gough. This was supported by more contemporary reference to the modern trend to single parent families showing the higher order skill of interpretation and application. The candidate then developed the debate well by the use of the work of Young and Willmott as well as that of Anderson and Laslett. The skill of evaluation was then brought in by outlining an element, namely diversity that these theorists may have overlooked. The candidate outlined an evaluative argument describing different theories and theorist that entered Level 3 of the mark scheme. This answer was excellent and the candidate applied all of the assessment objectives, where appropriate, in their answer and is placed at the top of the grade.

Mark awarded = 10 out of 11

Total mark awarded = 24 out of 25

Example candidate response – grade C

ns1a) The term family diversity is used when explaining all the family types that have cropped up in the modern society such as single parents, homosexual couples and lone parents. Family diversity is a social phenomena that has to be accepted and respected. / 2

ns1b) A household is a group of people living together without kinship or family ties, but they must share a common residence and have at least one meal together. Single households cannot be included as part of family as they consist of a lone individual. In 2005, 13% of all households were single households. Another type of household is shared household which refers to students or individuals sharing a flat or house. / 2

Ansie) The industrialization process brought about changes in family ^{structure} according to Willmott and Young who said that the family is shaped according to the demands and requirements of society.

Before industrialization the family was a unit of production working in farmlands, and ~~consumers~~ consuming what ever they managed to produce.

During this period the extended family prevailed and children born were considered as workers to help out on the fields.

With the process of industrialization as means of production became more mechanical and production shifted out into the rural areas into offices and business centres, ^{it} was ^{that} the family ^{was} structured affected. Family members moved into cities and towns ^{in search of jobs} and at first conditions of life were miserable, there was overcrowding as a mass migration occurred from the rural to urban areas. Working conditions too were pathetic as labourers worked for long hours at a very low wage, knowing that there were many willing to replace them.

However the ^{as} post industrial era was a much better one ~~and~~ the standard of living improved. People were now no longer exploited ~~and~~ as labour laws had been put in place and the family also became more united as both husband and wife understood the responsibilities they each had and finally this lead to the symmetrical family

3

21d) The nuclear family consists of two generations of family members the parents and their dependant children. However family types are now changing and no family type can claim its dominance

There are other types of families as well such as the extended family, single parent family, reconstituted family, homosexual family and matrilineal or patrilineal families. Diversity in family was first identified by the Rapaports who discovered that many different family types were emerging in the modern society.

The first type of family is the single parent family. 25% of all families are single parent and 90% of these are headed by women.

Single parent families are the result of either divorce, death of a partner or birth outside marriage. In case of divorce the reason why women get custody of children is because of their feminine nature and because men are often unwilling to leave their well paid jobs. The reason why so many single parent families are emerging is due to greater social acceptance and less secularization. Feminists are supporters of this type of family as they claim that children from these types of families often do well in school while Cashmore says that it's better to have one parent rather than two who are always arguing and fighting. New Rights criticize this family type saying that they are a burden on the state while Mclanahan and Booth claim that children from single parents don't perform well in school.

Rel?

Homosexual couples are also fast emerging due to greater social acceptance and due to less secularization. In countries such as India and the United States of America gay marriages have been legalized.

Another type of family that are emerging are reconstituted families which are made up of step parents and/or step children. Reconstituted families are also known as broken nuclear families because they emerge from the divorce of one family and its reconstruction either through cohabitation or remarriage.

However these aren't the only family types as there are many alternatives to the family as well such as the Nayer society as described by Kathleen Gough, the communes in Europe and America and the Israeli Kibbutz. Orphanages and old homes are also considered alternatives to the family.

6
14

Examiner comment – grade C

- (a) The candidate correctly identified that diversity is linked to a range of family types 'all the family types' and made their understanding of what was a somewhat brief definition clear by adding examples. Definitions do not require examples but in this case it underlined the candidate's knowledge.

Mark awarded = 2 out of 2

- (b) The candidate started with a confused statement about households that seemed to imply that families cannot be households. They then went on to correctly identify single households as an example of a household that does not fit into Murdock's definition and gave a reason why this was so. This answer was somewhat implicit but it still gained two marks. The candidate then correctly identified 'shared' household such as students for which another mark was awarded, but this type of household was not described nor was the reason why it did not fit Murdock's definition of the family given. The question asked for a description of the household that was named and no matter how brief this is needed if both marks are to be awarded.

Mark awarded = 3 out of 4

- (c) The candidate began by clearly identifying industrialisation as a reason the family is changing. The majority of the answer described how the family changed rather than why it changed and so this was a Level 1 answer. Limited use was made of Young and Willmott as well as a reference to the symmetrical family. To go higher the candidate needed to include points that related to why the family may be changing.

Mark awarded = 3 out of 8

- (d) The candidate began with a clear description of the nuclear family. A list of other types of family forms then followed, supported by the Rapaports that showed that the candidate was clearly answering the question. The candidate then went into some more depth about single parent families and linked this to secularisation. The following section included the views of feminists about these families that had no relevance to this question. Other alternatives such as the homosexual and reconstituted family were mentioned but no acknowledgement of the reconstituted family as a nuclear type was made. The candidate entered the Level 2 by showing that both nuclear and other types of families are to be found. Overall this was a competent answer but was reliant on knowledge and understanding. Evidence of the other assessment objectives were present but not developed. This answer is at the lower end of the grade.

Mark awarded = 6 out of 11

Total mark awarded = 14 out of 25

Example candidate response – grade E

1. (a)	<p>Family diversity refers to the different types of families that make up a society eg. conjugal, family nuclear or extended families.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Just NBOD</p>	1 ✓
(b)	<p>Murdock's definition states 'two adults' which is not the case in lone or single-parent families. Also, he defines the family as having atleast one off-spring but there are <u>married couple</u> who make a conscientious decision not to have or delay having a child. - do they a family? are a household.</p>	2 ✓ 2 ✓
(c)	<p>There are lots of reasons for the changing Society today. One of them is geographical mobility. Individuals more might have to move somewhere else for a job which might be difficult with children, so they limit the number of children they have. People have become more economically independent so they don't need to depend on their kin for financial support from an extended family or have to rely on them for economic security. Modern industrial societies have replaced many familial duties with specialized institutes such as schools, hospitals, hospital recreational facilities so people don't feel a need to stay in constant contact with people. Enhanced, more effective <u>contraceptions</u> have also lowered</p>	✓ →

the birth rate so people esp young people don't feel a need to marry to legitimize a pregnancy. Modern industrial societies also comprises of a largely consumer groups; ~~so~~ they don't have to increase the people in order to increase a work labour. They'd rather save the money spent on the upbringing of an individual that isn't instrumental in earning as well. Also, as consumers we have a lot of choices now so the old need to settle with one thing is quickly fading away now that the society is spoilt by choices provided by capitalism. ^{Rel to family?}

less frugal.

?

L/4

(d) I think it is, to a large extent true ^{get fewer children muddled how about parents to take? s.h.} because even if you break down an extended family, the basic unit you get. Now, it is one step too far to say it's the ~~main~~ dominant family structure in ALL societies. For eg. In South Asian and African societies, extended families are still the majority of the thread in the fabric of society which includes all lone-parents, reconstituted families within the extended family. But yes, I think it's safe to say we're slowly but surely progressing towards a society that will see nuclear family as the pre-dominant unit. People are becoming more independent and better lifestyles offered all over enables a family to have a more private, luxurious life as a nuclear family.

essential to style.

L/2

(11) PP

Examiner comment – grade E

- (a) The candidate clearly identified types of families which were rewarded. The reference to conjugal as a type of family was not allowed as this is a relationship rather than a structure and nuclear and extended as examples did not add enough to types of families for credit.

Mark awarded = 1 out of 2

- (b) The answer to this question was brief but it did identify the lone or single parent family as not fitting in to Murdock's definition because it lacks 'two adults' and this part of the answer was awarded two marks. The second example of the childless couple was also awarded two marks as the lack of offspring was identified.

Mark awarded = 4 out of 4

- (c) The start of this answer lacked clarity as the candidate referred to a changing society and not a changing family as outlined in the question. There was then some limited use of geographical mobility, the way in which it may have weakened the extended family and how other institutions have replaced it. Some use was made of contraception and changing attitudes to legitimacy but then the candidate's answer became somewhat tangential as they described the effects of consumerism. There was some confusion between how and why the family may have changed, so the candidate was awarded a mark at the top of the Level 1.

Mark awarded = 4 out of 8

- (d) The candidate offered an assertive answer to this question that reflected the mark scheme 'show only a limited appreciation, or not, of the nuclear family' and so was limited to the Level 1 and was awarded two marks for showing that the nuclear family is the basic unit.

Mark awarded = 2 out of 11

This answer had evidence of some knowledge but did not develop the more evaluative answer in the question and is at the lower end of the grade.

Total mark awarded = 11 out of 25

Section B

Question 2

- 2 Explain and assess the view that families are no longer patriarchal in modern industrial societies. [25]

Mark scheme

- 2 **Explain and assess the view that families are no longer patriarchal in modern industrial societies.** [25]

L1 0–6 Lower at this level (1–3 marks), answers may be confined to one or two simple points based on assertion or common sense understanding. For example, one or two simple points about how men “get their way” in families, or not, with no sociological support or about *who* does what in families, such as men having more freedom or going to the pub (or something similar) whilst women look after children may gain up to 3 marks.

Higher at this level, there may be a wider range of simple points based on assertion or common sense understanding. For example, an answer showing some limited understanding of the process of decision making such as men controlling the family income may be awarded a mark of 6. At this level there may be no direct reference to patriarchy.

L2 7–12 Answers at this level, will show some sociological knowledge and understanding of the question and knowledge of the concept of patriarchy.

Lower at this level (7–9 marks), the answer may be confined to a narrow range of points, lacking detail and possibly with some inaccuracies. For example, an outline of the importance of conjugal roles and the development of equality between partners with no reference to issues such as weaker family members would be worthy of the lower marks in the level.

An outline of the domestic labour debate, with no critical development, such as the way time is spent and the development of the symmetrical family with no development, may gain up to 9 marks.

Higher in this level (10–12 marks), answers may either cover a narrow range of points in reasonable detail or cover a wider range of points in limited detail.

Points candidates might cover include, discussion of power in conjugal roles such as the control of family income, or decision making, or a discussion of other theories of family relationships as outlined by feminists or Marxists (in this level it is unlikely that it will be by both). A clear understanding of patriarchy should be shown at this level. There may or may not be limited assessment in this level.

- L3 13–18 Answers at this level will show good sociological knowledge and understanding. The material used will be interpreted accurately and applied effectively to answering the question. There is no **requirement** for assessment at this level although it may be present.

Lower at this level (13–15 marks), answers will demonstrate knowledge but this may be limited in range. There will be little or no use of concepts or theory, and the points covered may lack development.

Answers that enter this level should refer to ideas linked to evidence that shows a growing trend to equality, at least in some modern industrial societies, but that studies, such as that of Dobash and Dobash, highlight weaknesses in this view.

Lower in the level the discussion may be limited to contrasting the ideas of Oakley, Young and Willmott.

Other answers may display a detailed assessment of the different power relationships between different members of the family but be unsupported by theory.

Higher at this level (16–18 marks), answers will use a wider range of knowledge, supported by the use of concepts and theory where relevant and include well-developed points.

To get to the higher end of the level, candidates should demonstrate good understanding of the topic with some interpretation of the evidence such as the variety of feminist views as outlined by liberal, Marxist and radical feminists as well as the concept of patriarchy. This may not just be limited to conjugal roles but may also include other weaker members of families either in relation to men or women. However, this assessment will be lacking in detail and may rely on the juxtaposition of different theories that may include post-modernist views, such as Nicolson, that powerful ideologies support some family types whilst devaluing others.

- L4 19–25 Answers at this level must achieve **three** things:

First, there will be good sociological knowledge and understanding.

Second, the material used will be interpreted accurately and applied effectively to answering the question.

Third, there must also be some evidence of assessment.

Answers at this level will provide a solid account of relationships within families including both conjugal roles and other relationships within families; one possible way to approach this question is by control of other family members. There should also be a sustained and well informed assessment of activities and power such as the work of Edgell and decision making.

Lower at this level (19–21 marks), the assessment may be largely delivered through juxtaposition of contrasting arguments and theories such as functionalists as supported by such studies as Young and Willmott and feminists such as Barrett and McIntosh. Alternatively, the assessment may be limited to just one or two evaluative points that are explicitly stated.

Higher at this level (22–25 marks), there will be sustained assessment and the points offered will be explicit and well-directed towards the question. This analysis may take the form of arguing that feminism is not one coherent theory and the evidence of the lack of evidence to support the symmetrical family in a variety of societies.

Another way of gaining the highest level, would be to outline the various ways in which families are dominated by patriarchy with such examples as the giving of dowries, female infanticide and female mutilation.

An alternative answer may evaluate the power of women to control men through public shame as contrasted by *izzat* both in traditional and modern industrial societies.

Concepts such as patriarchy, the new man, domestic violence, pooling, decision making, march of progress, dual burden, emotion work, the commercialisation of housework and equality may be referred to. There should be a balanced conclusion to gain full marks.

Example candidate response – grade A

Q2. There has been a long debate going on regarding the level of patriarchy found in Modern societies. No one perspective has been successful in formulating an overall explanation for the trends or fixed values found in the families. Patriarchy refers to male dominance and the idea that men are superior than women and hence ~~should~~ ^{way} enjoy more power over them.

The ~~level~~ ^{way} of measuring patriarchy itself, firstly, is subject to a great deal of questioning. Some other sociologists have his/her own ways of doing so as the ways are not fixed and vary. There has been an increase in ^{the} belief that modern societies are characterized by equality and fair treatment when it comes to gender. This was presented by Willmott & Young who proposed in their 3rd stage of that families are increasingly becoming symmetrical when it comes to conjugal roles between men and women. This means that there is equal share of household chores irrespective of the fact ~~whether~~ that women work or not. Oakley and Edgell, however ~~Ballegard~~ in their small case study found that there hasn't been any change in the gender roles and women are still dominated over by men.

It is also believed that the division of labour has become increasingly symmetrical and so

have the hours worked at home. Sullivan points out that there aren't many differences in the time spent working between men and women whereas Gershuny points out that ~~the~~ women are still responsible for ~~childcare~~ paid and unpaid work which results in dual burden. She does however say that equality is increasing but is slow. If patriarchy is judged on the basis of decision making and money management then Haddill, Green and Edgall point out that men are usually responsible for the ~~the~~ decisions including finances and other important decisions whereas women are mostly limited to decision making regarding clothes, kitchen ware etc. Only a quarter of households were found where the women, too, were involved. ~~For~~ Pahl found that money division was in hand of men mostly but participation by women was increasing which shows that even if patriarchy has not been finished, work is being done to finish it. Vogler, in her study of 1211 couples, just found that the trend towards equal money management had increased from 6% to 22%. However, on what basis do you consider money division equal? On the basis of mutual agreement or completely equal division? Again, it is a matter of the couple's own interpretation.

It can also be argued whether women, who are apparently the victims, ever considered themselves ~~to~~ to be dominated or oppressed by men? If not

then the whole debate becomes useless. On the other hand, ~~these are~~ it ~~was~~ ^{is} also believed that women are in fact oppressed but has this changed?

The government has taken stand for women by setting laws against gender discrimination, rape in marriage and divorce etc. to allow women to have greater control over their own lives but is it enough? Just by changing the restrictions etc., can we say that patriarchy is done and over with?

Not really as liberal feminists and radical feminists point out that the family is still used as an institution to exploit women and the real thing that needs to be changed is the patriarchal ideology that men are superior.

Rudy ^{and Finston} says that the basic idea of women being responsible for child birth and closeness to child is still exploited by men to force them into the housewife role. Elston found that in those families where both parents were practicing doctors, it was usually women who took care of children when they were ill. Similarly, Feist & Smith found that even if women ~~did~~ worked and men didn't, women took care of household chores and child care.

When it comes to 'families', what families are we referring to? Nuclear, extended, single parent etc., which ones? When it comes to single mothers, they are still stigmatised and are held somewhat responsible for child delinquency.

and mobility of the child to actually fit into the society by following the 'norms and values' considered appropriate. New Right theories are especially against this idea and want to see people to form families instead of single parenthood. Is this considered patriarchal? Not just this the governments and state policy can affect the extent kind of family forms and can indirectly force women into housewife role since policies are usually passed ~~and~~ which are based on the assumption that the family system common is the nuclear family and usually one parent stays at home for the care of children. Fox hardly proved this by saying that policies regarding paternity and maternity leaves way and so do the pension for women.

If families are no longer patriarchal then why is it that most women complain of being the only one responsible of emotion work, and invisible work; the efforts they put into keeping healthy relationships. Devault, Duncombe and Marsden pointed out that ~~not~~ it is women who fulfill the emotion work in a relationship and also end up doing a triple shift. They have to deal with, paid, unpaid and emotion work. This is probably because of how people are socialised into and internalised into values which are strictly gender separated for ex person's expressive and instrumental role which

parson

is based on the ~~fact~~ ~~assum~~ creates preconceived notions that women are supposed to stay at home and ~~get~~ be worked in stores. This can be countered by the argument that women go out more now and are economically independent, and are also found in jobs of higher stature but does this show that patriarchy has declined? Market report which questioned 1000 people showed that 85% of women were involved in all the household chores and only 1% out of 100 men, shared tasks equally. Dobash and Dobash's analysis on domestic violence also shows that very little progress is made towards equality and justice.

From these points, it can be seen that there is no one set criteria for judging patriarchy in society or even the kind of family forms which exist since it ~~all~~ ^{mostly} depends on how the family members interpret and give meaning to their lives and roles within the family. However, the question statement makes a generalisation that patriarchy has ended ²⁴ completely as shown by the points presented ²⁴ in the answer.

24

(24)

Examiner comment – grade A

The candidate starts with a clear statement outlining that there is no definitive answer and then gives a succinct definition of patriarchy. The issue of patriarchy as a concept that can be explained in different ways is raised pointing to an evaluative approach but it is not made clear what these ways are. The work of Young and Willmott is used to show the growth of equality in stage three families and this is done effectively by reference just to that stage without any superfluous mention of the other stages. This is then directly evaluated by contrasting those findings to the work of Oakley and Edgell displaying the skill of evaluation. The candidate then looks at a range of ways in which patriarchy or equality can be found in terms of the division of labour, decision making and money management. These are well supported by a variety of theorists and their work is contrasted to show that there is conflicting evidence and different ways of interpreting equality or patriarchy.

The candidate also evaluates the way in which evidence is judged by asking the question 'on what basis can you consider money division equal?' Again a question is posed that asks do women have to know they are oppressed to be so. This points to the skills of interpretation and application. The role of governments in changing the laws is considered as well as its effects. Once more this is supported by a range of feminist views that the family still exploits women in spite of legal changes. An interesting debate is raised about the situation of single mothers being free of male oppression but subjected to oppression in other ways and the role of the New Right as supporters of patriarchy is raised.

The concept of emotion work is used effectively and this is well supported by the work of Duncombe and Marsden and the triple shift. The candidate explains how this leads to socialising gender values into society and then contrasts this to the view that women are more economically independent than in the past. Throughout the answer the candidate is focused, well-informed and produces evaluative answer which is towards the top of the grade. All assessment objectives are to be found throughout the answer and the candidate clearly achieved all three triggers required to enter Level 4. In order for the candidate to gain full marks, there should be a balanced conclusion.

Mark awarded = 24 out of 25

Example candidate response – grade C

2. Diversity in types of family has been observed by sociologists over a long period of time. Many sociologists claim that due to modernisation and

education, the patriarchy has been reduced by but most of the sociologists are feminist and see family as the main source of patriarchy.

Functionalist see family as an organ which connects to other organs of society and functions. According to functionalist family is an essential unit for the society to function. Parsons list two important functions of family, one is primary socialization and second is maintaining and stabilizing adult personality. Parsons uses Freud's theory of psychoanalysis. Parsons argues that an individual has certain desires which he cannot do in front of society as it would not be socially acceptable but ~~the~~ through family he can act out his desires ~~the~~ through which the society is kept personality is kept stable. too long

Leach argues that family is a heaven and all tensions exist in outside world and families yearn from it. Functionalist ignore all the differences and diversity and view family from a macro perspective giving an impact of equal status between men and women.

Marxist see family as an ideological conditioning device of the bourgeoisie. Engels argue that due to private property patriarchy is created. Usually male is the one who inherits the private property. Engels argue that the male is bourgeoisie

and female as proletarian. Engels argue that for the female to be free and secure their rights they a thing called family must be abolished and a communist block should be created. Kollontai gives the idea of collective housekeeping where the women doesn't has to do housework but it can be performed by a male or female made who's job it is to do so.

Ref?

Delma argues that the origins of patriarchy isn't from male's sexuality but from the history. Feminist see family as a source of patriarchal institution where female has to perform dual and tripple shift.

Willmott and Young coined the term symmetrical family where they found out that house task was equally shared by the couples. Bott designed the term joint conjugal role where she described male and female helping in their task equally. The new man image is an image of man of modern industrial society where the man does female jobs such as housework and taking care of babies. Vogue argues that men have also increasingly taken part in houses

finances and house finances are shared by male and female equally. power?
maybe
 Feoi and Smiths argue that female are solely responsible for house work even when they are employed but the male is not. Elston studied a couple of doctors and found out that females were responsible for housework compared to males. when a child fall sick most of the females were the one who took off. Mintel studied couple of 1,000 and found out only 1 out of the rest couple shared house hold task equally. Dobash and Dobash studied on domestic violence and found out one fourth cases were on domestic violence and the charge was fine was lower than car fine parking. Aurat foundation of Pakistan found out that 99% females are subjected to domestic violence. Raps Sen wrote in her book that more than 1,000 baby girls are murdered in countries like India and Pakistan. Rapports argue that even when female is employed housework and children are solely seen as their responsibility. Calloun promotes the idea of gay and lesbian marriages as males take

the responsibility of housework equally. Chester argues that there is no such diversity observed in the family except the fact that females are largely getting employed similar to men. Gibson argued that education and freedom of choice have made females more confident of what they expect from marriage. High rates of divorce result that female the marriage system isn't working well but it also denotes that females have gain independence to such an extent that they can earn themselves. Matrifocal families support the view.

The high rate of remarriages support the view that people have not lost faith in marriages but attach high value to marriages. Females are highly competing males in employment and household finances but origins of patriarchy are not erased or patriarchy isn't demolished in modern industrial society.

✓
14

Implicit understanding of P.

Good Soc. needs focus on P.

Examiner comment – grade C

The candidate opens the essay with a statement indicating that there is a debate which demonstrates knowledge of the subject. Application of the correct material is shown by indicating that modernisation and education have weakened patriarchy whilst identifying that it is the feminists who disagree with the proposition posed in the question. A long section follows in which the candidate outlines the functionalist view of the family. This is factually correct but the candidate does not focus this long section of their answer on the question. The candidate then contrasts this with the Marxist view and the way in which the development of private property lead to patriarchy is outlined. Although there is some speculation about how the lives of males and females should develop there is some useful reference to the origins of patriarchy and use of concepts such as the triple shift. There then follows a long list of the findings of different sociologists that describes different roles and relationships to be found within marriage.

Good use was made by reference to contemporary societies and the rates of female infanticide but the candidate would have received more marks if the answer had related to more gender based relationships in families as a whole and not concentrated almost totally on marriage. The candidate successfully showed that there is a debate, which can be supported by evidence, demonstrating that patriarchy has weakened but also that it is also still to be found.

This answer could have been improved by linking the evidence quoted to each side of the debate. Further marks could have been gained by showing the strengths and limitations of the evidence used. The time for this could have been found by limiting the lengthy descriptions and avoiding personal speculation about what should happen and so this answer is towards the lower end of the grade.

Mark awarded = 14 out of 25

Example candidate response – grade E

(2) The Patriarchal system refers to a Particular Society in which supports male-domination and exploits women with domestic work ~~or~~ or violence.

The Modern Industrial Society does not follow Patriarchal rule and hence gives Priority to Equality, Modernity, Freedom, Education and change.

Patriarchal is the Rarest form of a ~~male-don~~ male-oriented family in which all the power is held by the male member and the women family member are exploited. The rise of modernity has changed many things for women. The role of women has become much essential and significant. The old traditional and male dominated families are disappearing in the Modern-Industrial society. Africa, Caribbean, Zimbabwe and West Indies are the major countries where matrifocal families are found. These families are run by the female members and the male members are usually found ~~at~~ babysitting children, gossiping, shopping and bickering over vegetables. The Conjugal family clearly advocates the claim in which adults of both sexes are the bread-winner. This means that women are being treated equally to men in this Modern Era. The Female members of the family are given freedom, choice and equal job opportunities to men.

The rising rate of lone-parent family usually female oriented has disappeared the patriarchal vice in the families. In the lone-parent family the mother has freedom to live her own life and earn living for herself and her children.

In Modern Industrial societies women are being given equal jobs and salaries which has effected many patriarchal families and moulded them into a conjugal family. Education and technology has changed the perspective of many men who have started to treat women equal to themselves.

On the other hand, some Feminist still believe that many families today exploit women from labour work and socializing children. The stigma attached to the biological differences of sex has also turned up to sociological social difference. Marxist still believe that equality between women and men is not possible because as a female member can never run a family successfully if the male member is not dominating. Marxist argue that feminist have exaggerated the position of women in the family. They think that domestic household and children are the most crucial responsibility of a woman and if she works outside, the children can be neglected?

In contradiction to this, the rise of

Meritocracy has changed the position of women in the society and the industrialisation is not just for men. People are judged through their skills and accomplishments rather than gender.

Coelhem, a modernist says that cohabitation has also changed the position of women as both members ~~in~~ who cohabit are not bound to follow the responsibilities of a traditional marriage.

Consequently, the female member is also not bound to ~~be~~ follow the male partner. Instead, she is free to manage her career and can earn living for herself. The isolated nuclear family is also no more male dominated, as the women member is provided with a good lifestyle and both partners support each other economically and emotionally.

Although the modern industrial society has ~~vanish~~ almost vanished the patriarchal influence of male in the family, but sociologists believe that the problems of inequality can never be vanished in the social system. The feminists have exaggerated the difficulties of a woman and can never be satisfied with their position in the society. There was a time in which women were treated as private property by the males but the picture painted by

Marxist and Fem Patriarchist for women
 has changed its meaning and value.
 Women are no more treated as an
 asset but are being give freedom, choice
 and Equal opportunities. Some Nuclear
 and Extended family systems still treat
 women as ~~as~~ think that women are
 more suited for domestic work and
 socializing children but the heavy influence
 of Patriarchy is disappearing as the
 rate modernity is rising. Education and
 technology has played a major part
 in ~~more~~ shaping Females Position in
 the Society.

Examiner comment – grade E

The candidate begins with a definition of patriarchy which identifies male-domination, domestic work and violence. The former is a part of patriarchy but although domestic exploitation and violence may be present they are not always to be found in patriarchy. To improve the candidate needed to demonstrate a more firm grasp of the concept. The candidate then further expands the role of patriarchy as the power of the males in the family. Assertion about the decline of patriarchy in some societies is then outlined and this would have been worth a higher mark if it had been linked to some sociological theory or evidence. The position of the lone-parent mother as one free of patriarchy is then described but again this is unsupported other than by general points such as that of education.

The candidate then shows that there are contrasting views and introduces some theory by reference to the feminists and Marxists but the points about Marxism are confused. The candidate then introduces meritocracy as a factor that has changed the position of women but this is undeveloped and not related to the question, in order to gain the most from an answer all points should be linked to the question so that assessment objectives such as analysis can be demonstrated. The candidate then considers cohabitation and how that may have enabled females to have more freedom. They also assert that the nuclear family provides females with a better life style and this is debateable. This is followed by more assertion that patriarchy has or has not diminished.

Overall the answer is characterised by assertion but the candidate does show that there is a debate with limited reference to feminists and Marxists. Some use is made of education and the ways in which patriarchy may be expressed. In order to gain a higher mark the candidate needed support their assertion by reference to either sociological theory or the evidence from empirical studies. The answer is at the lower end of the grade.

Mark awarded = 11 out of 25

Question 3

- 3 Explain and assess the view that childhood is a time when children are free from the pressures of adult life. [25]

Mark scheme

- 3 **Explain and assess the view that childhood is a time when children are free from the pressures of adult life.** [25]

- L1 0–6 Lower at this level (1–3 marks), answers may be confined to one or two simple points based on assertion or common sense understanding. For example, one or two simple points about the way in which children spend their time with no reference to what is meant by the pressures of adult life or with no sociological support.

Higher at this level, there may be a wider range of simple points based on assertion or common sense understanding. For example, if some limited understanding of the process of socialisation is shown such as the way in which the child learns acceptable behaviours and values in their society **or** descriptions of the situation of feral children. Other answers may make a few points about how children copy the behaviours of others through play and learn to become boys and girls.

- L2 7–12 Answers at this level will show some sociological knowledge and understanding of the question.

Lower at this level (7–9 marks), answers may be confined to a narrow range of points, lacking detail and possibly with some inaccuracies. For example, an outline of the importance of socialisation into the culture of a particular society with no reference to issues such as laws that may have been passed to protect children. Or responses which offer only a general answer relating to the importance of human socialisation with no development may gain up to 9 marks.

Higher at this level (10–12 marks), answers may either cover a narrow range of points in reasonable detail or cover a wider range of points in limited detail.

This could include such points as an outline of the 'march of progress' view showing the position of children improving, children valued, protected, cared for and educated or an outline of conflict theories about inequalities between children. Or a discussion of other inequalities between children and adults that cause dependency and oppression.

- L3 13–18 Answers at this level will show good sociological knowledge and understanding. The material used will be interpreted accurately and applied effectively to answering the question. There is no **requirement** for assessment at this level although it may be present.

Answers that enter this level may refer to ideas linked to the experiences of different groups of children; that not all children within one society will share the same social position, gender or ethnicity and this will influence the way their childhood is spent.

Lower at this level (13–15 marks), answers may use a narrow range of knowledge, there will be limited use of concepts or theory, and the points covered may lack development.

Answers lower in the level may be limited to a discussion of when childhood ends for different groups. For example when children are expected to join the adult world and assume adult responsibilities.

Higher at this level (16–18 marks), answers will use a wider range of knowledge, supported by the use of concepts and theory where relevant and include some well-developed points.

To get into the higher end of the level there should be a consideration of some evidence such as the consequences of extended education in some societies. Other answers may display a detailed assessment of different experiences in childhood but be unsupported by much knowledge. Other answers may consider the extent to which childhood is a time of innocence/protection in an age when the media blurs the distinction between children and adults. However, this assessment may be lacking in detail and rely on the juxtaposition of the different ways in which childhood is experienced for different groups such as girls as opposed to boys and the way that they may be either more protected, or exposed to harsh treatment than males such as the consequences of *izzat*.

L4 19–25 Answers at this level must achieve **three** things:

First, there will be good sociological knowledge and understanding.

Second, the material used will be interpreted accurately and applied effectively to answering the question.

Third, there must also be some evidence of assessment.

Answers at this level will provide a solid account of the experience of childhood including a historical view of the development of childhood. There will also be a sustained and well informed assessment of the march of progress theory as supported by the development of laws to protect children.

Lower at this level (19–21 marks), the assessment may be largely delivered through juxtaposition of contrasting arguments and theories such as Marxist and feminist which highlight the inequalities between children both between and within families and societies.

Higher at this level (22–25 marks), there will be sustained assessment and the points offered will be explicit and well-directed towards the question. There is likely to be a well-formulated conclusion.

This may include a more direct analysis of the way in which childhood may, or may not, be protected. This analysis may take the form of arguing that children are kept separate and controlled in society and this is then contrasted to examples of how children are exposed to what others are exposed to in their societies. For example exploitation in work (Brannen girls and domestic labour), or children who are not excluded from society (Holmes, children in Samoa never considered too young to undertake a task in society).

Another way of gaining the highest level would be to explore the examples of abuse that children experience in spite of laws to protect them such as mental/physical abuse or neglect, child soldiers or the experience of street children and how they are dealt with. Cross-cultural examples can be quoted with credit. Concepts such as the social construction of childhood, separateness (Pilcher), golden age, age status, inequality and child centred may be referred to. There should be a balanced conclusion to gain full marks.

Example candidate response – grade A

3.

Ans

The western notion of childhood believes that it is a separate age-status and they should be treated differently from adults.

They see children as immature, vulnerable, needing and nurturing and to be protected from worldly deeds. Jane

Piltcher has a key idea of 'seperateness' in modern world. He believes that

children are seen different from adults through change in dressing, food and entertainment. But

children are not seen

same everywhere, they differ in different cultures and between times, e.g

cultural and historical differences. Stephen Wagg

says that there is no separate ~~eh~~ universal

childhood they all go from same phase but

only vary between time

and cultures which is that it is socially constructed. Children in pre-industrial societies were treated differently such as they worked early, less obedience to adults and were viewed more tolerant etc. In part children did same work as adults, works of art showed no sign of childhood they were only depicted on smaller scale. Philippe Ariès 'In middle ages idea of childhood did not exist they were same as adults only seen as 'miniadults'. From 13th century the idea of childhood began due to increase in compulsory schooling and growth of influence in churches. In 18th century there were books on child-rearing and finally from 20th century there was increased influence on children and it was called a childhood century.

The reasons for emergence of western nation of childhood was increased children laws, rights which prevented them from exploitation at work. Use of contraception or smaller families so parents invest in their children emotionally.

The March of progress view believes that today children are better than ever before due to increased Labour laws, child centeredness in families and on media. But the conflict view believes that there is conflict between children amongst themselves and adults and children.

Inequalities rise amongst children as they are treated differently in different societies and class, gender and ethnicity inequalities also rise. March of progress view that adults use power for benefit

of children but child liberationist view that they are only oppressing and controlling them. Young and Willmott e.g. 'Control of children is an inequality and subjugates children and make them under-control of adults such as age-patriarchy. However different sociologists have different views on future of childhood.

Neil Postman, he believes that childhood is disappearing at dazzling speed as there is decrease in children games, same clothing as adults etc. This is due to emergence and then decline of separate age status, fall of print culture and its replacement by visual TV.

~~In~~ middle ages, speech was the only power and children were not related with innocence nor adult with mystery so there was no division amongst two.

In 20th century 'TV destroyed ~~information~~ hierarchy and

Information was available to everyone. There was decline of adulthood control and children. However it was criticised that media was over emphasised at expense of other factors such as changes in policy etc. Jona and Peter still believe in the continuity of childhood culture as their research into children games proof and also western notion of childhood is exported to other countries as childhood as separate age status in nuclear family. However it is not clear if modern western childhood is increasing or decreasing but it still shows that children have more rights but subordinated of adults, more dependence and staying longer in education, more access to communication and technology but less free movement. Overall it states that childhood is not

the same everywhere, it is socially constructed which means differs between times and culture.

✓
(21)

Raises lots of points that doesn't explore but v. good on what does

Examiner comment – grade A

The candidate begins with a clear view of childhood as seen from a western perspective and this is supported by the work of Pilcher and 'seperateness'. This is then contrasted by time, place and culture again supported by Wagg. The candidate further develops the historical perspective and, using the work of Aries, outlines how childhood has changed due to such factors as education, legal changes and contraception at least within the western world. The march of progress theory is considered and this is contrasted to Marxist theory and the two are juxtaposed showing evaluation of the evidence. This evaluation is further displayed in the work of Postman and the disappearance of childhood. At this point the candidate is a bit vague as to the theorists that are being referred to and one way to improve an answer is by accurate reference to theorist and theory. However, the candidate does show that the topic is well understood and that they have interpreted and evaluated the material in relation to education, information technology and rights.

Overall this was a well constructed answer which had a clear understanding of the topic, supported by a range of contemporary sociological theorists and the candidate had a clear understanding of childhood as a social construction. To have achieved a higher mark the development of childhood in non-western cultures and the ways in which for many children childhood is not a period of freedom from the pressures of adult life could have been developed. However, the candidate achieved all three triggers needed for Level 4. This answer is in the middle of the grade.

Mark awarded = 21 out of 25

Example candidate response – grade C

Q 3.	<p>Childhood is not natural and is formed by society. The 'cultural upbringing' plays a major part in an individual's life.</p>
	<p>Back in the day in pre-industrial society childhood was not seen as a separate stage of life. In fact there was little difference between adults and children as they dressed, ate and acted the same. The laws/rules applying to adults applied to children as well. Children worked on agricultural farms with their families.</p>
	<p>Ruth Benedict claims that a child of pre-industrial society differs from a child of modern day society in a few ways</p>
	<p>(i) Respect towards elders is not emphasized on. (ii) Their sexual drive is not emphasized on either nor is it avoided on.</p>
	<p>(iii) there is little difference expected in behaviour from that of child and adult.</p>

In different periods of time, childhood changed. Philippe Ariès argues that childhood in the middle ages didn't even exist. Modern notion of childhood began in 13th Century when schools for the young were made. The influence of the church made it so children were seen as delicate creatures who were vulnerable to the harshness of the world. In 17th Century middle class children started dressing differently from adults and in 18th Century books and literature were published on childhood. The 20th Century was known as the ~~year~~ century of Childhood.

New laws were made so children weren't treated unjustly. Schooling was made necessary. It was known as a march of progress however the conflict view argued that childhood was not the same everywhere. Different kinds of childhood were experienced by kids of different gender, ethnicity and class. The boys were allowed to do certain activities girls couldn't. Different ethnicities means children were treated differently everywhere and the higher the class the better living circumstances. The meaning of childhood was different in all these areas. In pre-industrial society a child was considered an adult much earlier than in modern society.

Nowadays childhood is given new meaning. It is seen as a separate stage. Children are considered innocent and parents control what they wear, how long they can stay out for, where they are allowed etc. Children usually overreact to escape this and start acting like adults or act under and behave like babies. However sociologists argue that the rules are for the benefit of the child as he/she can not think maturely enough. Some critics

state that this is just a way to suppress a child and make them more dependent on their parents. The way patriarchy is sustained. In some households where children are abused, child services act in order to protect them.

Childhood is a time for children to be fully nurtured and taken care of so that they don't become a harm to society or themselves. Childhood is a stage where children should not have to deal with the struggles faced by parents and they should be free to do what they want and learn. It is argued that childhood or adulthood even ceases to exist in today's world but international agencies (The UN) are in favour of seeing childhood as a separate stage of life. Children have more freedom but more access to information technology. They spend most of their time in school so they can contribute to industrialisation some day. As children, they should be free to do whatever and learn under parental supervision.

15

Examiner comment – grade C

The candidate began by showing that they understood childhood as a social construction although they did not use that term which would have been an improvement. An outline of childhood (or the lack of childhood) in the past was then given supported by the ways in which this could change and develop as postulated by Aries. It was noted that childhood is not the same everywhere and this was related to gender, ethnicity and class. These were valid points but could have been improved by the inclusion of specific examples, such as what the boys were allowed to do that the girls could not, or theoretical evidence. There was some speculation as to the meaning of childhood 'nowadays'. This could have been improved by placing childhood in context and showing how this could be different for different cultures or sub-cultures. The candidate then became somewhat tangential about sociologists who argue if the rules are for the 'benefit' of children or not. This could have been omitted giving more time to explore issues such as child abuse which were barely touched upon.

The candidate then concluded by describing some of the socialisation that takes place in childhood as well as an outline of how children should be treated. The candidate clearly demonstrated some knowledge and understanding of the topic. The answer could have been improved by including some concepts as well as a more detail of theory or empirical evidence. Knowledge was shown throughout and some analysis of the ways different groups may be treated and so is towards the top of the grade.

Mark awarded = 15 out of 25

Example candidate response – grade E

Q3 Childhood is a stage of an individual's life when a child is free from every type of hardships and tough time. And the child lives an easy life. Childhood is a time when children are free from the pressure of adult life.

At this stage of age children are mostly in their initial stage of life, mostly commonly in the process of primary socialisation, where a child is taught how to eat, how to walk, and also how to talk. Children at this stage are free from the adult life.

Also there are some children who face the death of childhood. As claimed by Philip Aries when a child ~~is~~ starts to do work from a younger age. This the death of childhood or other than working when a child is suffering from the harshness of the society.

At this stage children have a happy life they are free to do whatever they want. They don't have a pressure to earn or work. Only some children have to work since childhood but they work due to poverty. At this stage children are only gaining their basic education and are taught the basic table manners.

At this stage the child doesn't have to even think about the career or anything else. They ~~is~~ just play and have fun in their own lives.

Jane Pitcher; also supports the view of childhood. Also this a stage of an age as it goes childhood the first stage than adolescence and than the old-age. Children are free from the adult's pressure but there are some people in child labour who start to work from an early age. This is a cause to death of childhood.

Childhood could be also cause death because of the harsh treatment of elders such as beating, abusing. This also cause the death of the childhood.

?
examples
need
Other than this in some society's during the childhood children spent a happy life; far away from all kinds of hardships, play, go to school and have fun. They are far away and doesn't even care about the thinking of adults.

At this stage of age they are free from the earning life and even they don't have worries to earn money. Everyone ^{child} is not face from the pressure of adult life during ^{life} childhood, some children are in pressure from childhood till old-age. Such as the child-labour. These child labours and pressurized and than they attempt to work. As if they don't work so they would face harsh punishments. So in some society's childhood is free and in some society it is work from starting of life till the end of life. This should be taken into consideration as childhood is only the stage where children can live an easy life.



Examiner comment – grade E

The candidate began with an assertive statement that agreed with the question that children are free from the pressures of adult life. They then went on to describe some of the ways in which socialisation takes place in childhood in line with Level 1 of the mark scheme. The candidate then outlined how some children may have to work or face 'the death of childhood' and although Aries was mentioned it was by no means clear how his work is connected to the death of childhood. In order to improve the candidate needed to clearly outline the work of Aries and relate it to the question. The candidate then went on to state 'At this stage'. Again it needed to be made clear what stage was being referred to. The implication was that a childhood free from the pressures of adult life but to access a higher level it needed to be explicit which children were being described in which society at what time. Pilcher was quoted as a supporter of childhood but, this was unfocused and to achieve a higher level the candidate needed to make it clear in what way she regards childhood. The same can be said about child abuse. This is a valid point but could have been developed more effectively if it had been related to a society or backed by evidence, such as the United Nations. The candidate understood that childhood is not fixed either by time or place. There was some development of the points but these were limited and generally unsupported. This answer was just below what is required for a grade E answer.

Mark awarded = 11 out of 25