

Power, Inequality and Family Policy

The distribution of power between the genders

Name and date begun:

Time allocation:

3 lessons

Learning objectives:

- Students should understand that the genders are not equal within society, not within the family.
- Students should appreciate that we have changing notions of masculinity and femininity.
- Students should recognise that it is within the domestic sphere that many notions of gender are being challenged.

Key Concepts and vocabulary

See your lesson notes for a list of the key terms. These must be learned in addition to the following:

- Domestic division of labour
- Patriarchy
- Dual career families
- Domestic labour
- Conjugal roles
- Feminism
- Postmodernism

Additional reading and references

Haralambos and Holbourn (1995) *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives 4th Edition* p 351 - 69

Taylor *et al.* (1996) *Sociology in Focus* p 238 - 44

Jorgensen *et al.* (1997) *Sociology: An interactive approach* p 91 - 99

Marcus and Ducklin (1997) *Success in Sociology* p 136 - 38

Make a note of any additional sources that you have used below

Personal Development ideas

- Ask girls if they would be willing to accept a traditional female role in marriage.
- Ask males if they would like a traditional wife.
- Who makes the major family decisions in your household?
- Ask males and females what feminism is and if they agree with it.

Overview of the debate

- What are the implications for the future of the changes that are taking place in gender roles?
- Is patriarchy still common in contemporary Britain? To what extent is it being challenged?
- What is the significance of the domestic labour debate in terms of power relationships in the family?
- What does feminism bring to the discussion? How valuable as a concept is feminism?
- How do postmodernists add to the debate?

Revision tips

- Be sure that you fully understand what changes are taking place in British society
- Be certain that you understand the varieties of feminism and the impact of feminism on society.
- Be certain that you can discuss post modernism with some confidence.
- What social policies may Governments have to review or consider in the light of the changes that are taking place in our society?

What you should have in your folder when this work has been completed correctly:

- A clear explanation of each of the glossary terms
- Acceptable lesson notes.
- Evidence that you have looked at least two textbooks and made notes.
- Evidence that you have shared notes with a friend
- A list of all of the relevant writers in this area with summary notes of 50 words about each.