

# The Family and Recent Social Change

## Social Policy and the Family

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Name and date begun:

**Time allocation:**  
3 lessons

### Learning objectives:

- Students should understand that the family is affected by the social ideology of the decision makers of our society.
- Thinkers of the New Right or a conservative morality see changes in families as a threat to society.
- Many radical thinkers see changes in the family as reflecting wider change in society and argue that it is not better or worse so much as different.
- Liberal thinkers argue that there has been less change than the figures imply

### Key Concepts and vocabulary

See your lesson notes for a list of ideologies and philosophies. These must be learned in addition to the following:

- Family ideology
- Cereal packet norm
- Patriarchy
- New Right
- Family values debates
- Family policy
- Moral panic

### Additional reading and references

Jorgensen et al. (1997) *Sociology: An interactive approach* p 116 - 120  
Marcus and Ducklin (1997) *Success in Sociology* p 151 - 2

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

### **Personal Development ideas**

- Find the Website of the Child Support Agency to see what its functions are seen to be.
- What beliefs do they have about how a family 'ought' to be?
- What other legislation has taken place with reference to family laws. See if you can obtain leaflets from the Citizen's Advice Bureau or other advice agencies.

### **Overview of the debate**

- What recent legislation has been passed which affect families?
- What ideologies underlie family legislation?
- Why do people hold the values that they do?
- To what extent should the state intervene to affect the ways that families organise themselves?

### **Revision tips**

- Make sure that you know the most recent legislation. You could look in books on social welfare.
- Be sure that you understand the various ideologies which affect social policy.

### **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.
- Notes gathered from one other student on the course.
- Evidence that you have looked at least two textbooks and that you understand the ideology of the New Right.
- An essay to the question:

Is the family as an institution dying or merely changing?