

The Family and Recent Social Change

Why study the family?

Name and date begun:

Time allocation:

3 lessons

Learning objectives:

- Students should understand that the family is a central structure of society
- Our families are the source of our morality, norms and values.
- There is a social ideology of family in our society.
- There are a variety of forms of family structure in our society

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
- Kinship
- Socialisation
- Functions of the family
- Household
- Nuclear family
- Extended family

Additional reading and references

It is strongly recommended that you buy a small introductory text to supplement the main textbooks.

Haralambos and Holborn (1995) *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives* p 317 - 23

Taylor *et al.* (1996) *Sociology in Focus* p 232 - 44

Jorgensen *et al.* (1997) *Sociology: An interactive approach* p 62 – 6

Marcus and Ducklin (1997) *Success in Sociology* p 110 - 8

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

Personal Development ideas

- Speak to people about their family structure and the family organisation that they have.
- What beliefs do they have about how a family 'ought' to be?
- Start to look in the Internet to see how many sites there are for family and family structures.

Overview of the debate

- What is a family?
- Why do we need families?
- Is any form of family correct?
- What meanings do families have for people?
- What forms of family structure are there?

Revision tips

- Be sure that you fully understand Parsons and his views on the functions of the family
- Be sure that you understand the difference between the ideology of the family and the reality of family life in our society.
- Consider why society needs families. What purpose does they serve for 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 on the functions of the family.
- Evidence that you have considered the question of what the family is and what it means to people in terms of their daily lives.
- Rough notes on various forms of family structure discovered by anthropologists.
- Evidence that you have attempted to collect information via the Internet and textbooks on family structure and ideology.