



Key studies: Parsons, Zaretsky, Young & Willmott, Oakley, Delphy & Leonard, the Rapoports

Families	Yes I'm confident!	50-50; needs work	Help!
Topic 1: Family types & family diversity			
1. What is a family/household? Sociological definitions			
2. Family diversity: different family forms in the UK			
3. KEY STUDY: The Rapoports' five types of family diversity; criticisms			
4. Reasons for family diversity; changes in: the law, values & attitudes, gender roles, secularisation, immigration, benefits, employment, life expectancy			
5. The nuclear family: what it is, importance, the media & the family life cycle			
6. Alternatives to the family: single-person households, communal living, Kibbutz, house shares, residential homes			
7. Families in a global context: examples from different cultures			
Topic 2: Functions & Theories of the Family			
1. Functionalism and the family: the ideas of Murdock & Parsons, primary socialisation, stabilisation of adult personalities; criticisms			
2. KEY STUDY: Parsons, <i>Social structure of the family</i> ; criticisms			
3. Marxism and the family; criticisms			
4. KEY STUDY: Zaretsky, <i>Capitalism, the family and personal life</i> ; criticisms			
5. Feminism and the family; criticisms			
6. KEY STUDY: Delphy & Leonard, <i>Familiar Exploitation</i> ; criticisms			
Topic 3: Changing relationships within families			
1. Changes to family relationships over time: pre-industrial, industrial & contemporary families			
2. Relationships between parents/carers and children			
3. Marriage: decline & alternatives, reasons for this & importance today			
4. Divorce: changing patterns since 1945; reasons: legal change, social attitudes & values, changing family functions, secularisation			
5. Consequences of divorce: for parents & family members, lone parents, children			
6. Theories about divorce: Functionalist, Marxist, Feminist			
Topic 4: Conjugal roles & relationships within families			
1. What are conjugal roles? Traditional family roles, joint roles, dual burden			
2. KEY STUDY: Anne Oakley, <i>Conventional Families</i> ; criticisms			
3. The Symmetrical family: what it is, reasons for its rise, stratified diffusion; criticisms			
4. KEY STUDY: Young & Willmott, <i>The Symmetrical Family</i> ; criticisms			
5. Changing relationships within families: power relationships & decision-making. Changing status of women, domestic violence			
6. Perspectives on conjugal roles: Functionalist, Marxist, Feminist			
Topic 8: Research Methods & the Family			
1. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of different research methods & types of data for studying families (see separate PLC)			