

<b>Functionalist view of the family</b> is that the family is one of the corner stones of society. It performs essential functions which support social stability and social cohesion.		Functions of the Family: Murdock		Functions of the Family: Parsons	
<b>Universal nuclear family</b> is a family that consists of 2 generations, parents and children and Murdock believes that this family type exists all over the world and is the best family type.	Sexual			Socialisation	
	Reproduction			Stabilisation of adult personalities	
	Socialisation				
	Economic				
<b>Social institutions</b> are the structures in society which influence behaviour such as the family, education, media and religion.		Evaluation			
Parsons: Internal Criticisms		1			
		2			
		3			
		4			
Best Fit Theory					
Structural Differentiation					

Marxist view of the family is...	Functions of the family: Marxism		Other Functions of the family	
	Inheritance of Wealth	Key Thinker: Fredrick Engels	Creating the next generation of workers.  Reserve labour force – Women.	
	Cushioning Effect	Key Thinker: Zaretsky	Evaluation	
			-	Ignores family diversity –
	Unit of Consumption	Key Thinker: Zaretsky	-	Deterministic –
			-	Negative View –
	Socialisation	Key Thinker: Althusser	+	
			+	

General Feminist view of the family is...

Feminists are critical of the family as a social institutions. They believe that the family is a tool of female oppression and in particular the nuclear family serves the needs of men rather than women. This is through issues such as unequal division of domestic labour and domestic violence.

They believe that gender inequality is a social construction and not a natural phenomena.

Triple Shift

Dual Burden

**Malestream Sociology** refers to the way that sociologists will apply research data collected about men to the lives of women despite their different experiences.

Liberal Feminism

Radical Feminism

Marxist Feminism

Intersectional Feminism

Overstates the amount of progress that has been made. Women still have the triple shift.

Marxist and Radical feminists also argue that liberal feminists fail to challenge the underlying causes of women's oppression and changing the law is not enough to bring about equality, there needs to be a fundamental change in social structures.

Sommerville argues that radical feminists fail to see the improvements that have been made to women's experiences of the family. With better access to divorce and control over their fertility women are not longer trapped by family. She also argues that separatism is unobtainable due to heterosexual attraction.

Women are no longer a reserve labour force as they have equal rights at work and are as likely as men to be the main breadwinner in the family.

Neglects the fact that many women do share the same experiences of family regardless of ethnicity or social class. For example they all face a risk of domestic violence and low pay.

**Sociology of Personal Life**

**Key Thinker: Carol Smart & Petra Nordqvist**

**Definition of the family:**

**Other significant relationships**

**Personal Life Perspective on the family:**

**Evaluation**

**Postmodernist view of the family**

**Giddens & Beck view of the family**

**Stacey's view of the family**

**Evaluation**

**SOCIAL POLICIES** refer to laws made by the government which aim to improve society or deal with a social policy.

**Views on Social Policies**



**Ronald Fletcher** – Health education and housing policies have led to the welfare stat which supports the family in completing its functions.



New Right are strong believers that the conventual heterosexual nuclear family which is self sufficient. Therefore believe that social policies have been a negative influence on society promoting family diversity and the disintegration of society.



Types of social Policy	
1	Providing Material Support for the family. Such as cash benefits through tax credits and child benefits.
2	Helping parents to balance working life and family life. Policies such as maternity pay, early years childcare and child protection laws.

Timeline of social policies and the family	
1980 – 1990's – Conservative Policies	
Aim	
Examples	
1997 – 2010 – New Labour Policies	
Aim	
Examples	

2010 Onwards – Coalition Policies	
Aim	
Example s	

Other important Policies		
	Outline	Impact on family
Beverage Report 1942	Introduced the Welfare state including housing benefit and the NHS.	
Divorce Reform Act 1969	Made Divorce easier to obtain. Allowed Women to file for divorce from her husband without having to prove, adultery, abuse or abandonment.	
Legalisation of Contraceptive Pill 1967	Made it legal for women who were unmarried to obtain the contraceptive pill	

The Rappaports 5 types of family diversity			Causes of Family Diversity	
Type		Explanation	Cause	Explanation
C	Cultural Diversity		Changes in Law	
L	Life Course Analysis		Changes in Social Attitudes	
O	Organisational Diversity		Changing Role of Women	
G	Generational Diversity		Secularisation	
S	Social Class Diversity		Globalisation / Immigration	
			Material Factors	

### Theories of Family Diversity

	Functionalism: Parsons	New Right: Murray	Postmodernism	Feminism: Stacey	Chester: Neo Conventional Family.
View of Diversity					
Explanation					

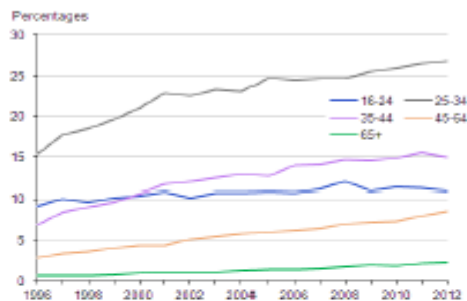
**Cohabitation** refers to two people living together in the same residence whilst also being part of an intimate romantic relationship.

**Marriage** refers to the legally or formally recognized union of two people as partners in a personal relationship

**Divorce** refers to the legal dissolution of a marriage by a court or other competent body.

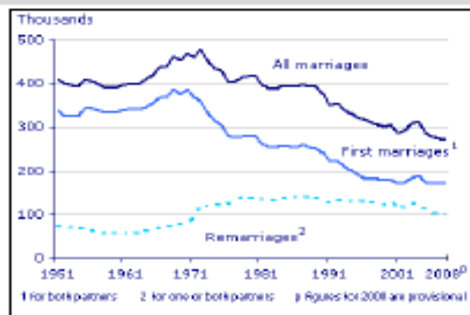
**LAT (Living Apart Together)** couples are couples who are in a committed intimate relationship or marriage but live at separate addresses.

## Trends in Cohabitation



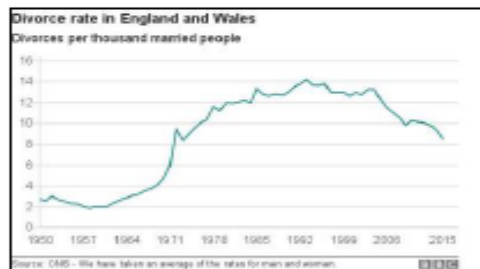
Cohabiting couples are rising particularly in the 25-34 age range.

## Trends in Marriage



Marriage is generally in decline although there are blips during baby boom eras. Number of remarriages is rising. Age of first marriage is also rising.

## Trends in Divorce



The divorce rate in recent years has been in decline overall but there has been an increase in divorce in the over 60's

## Causes of the trends in cohabitation, marriage and divorce.

	Impact on the trend
Changing role of women	
Secularisation	
Social Changes	
Legal Changes	
Economic Reasons	
Postmodern Reasons	
Changes in the family	

## Impact of the trends

### Negative Impacts:

### Positive Impacts:



Domestic Division of Labour means the chores that are completed around the house such as cleaning, laundry, cooking, DIY and gardening.

Decision Making in the family refers to the ways that families determine how decisions are made in the family. This can include financial decisions as well as day to day decisions and life changing ones.

### Traditional Views of Domestic Division of labour



### Why are Roles Changing?

Factor	Explanation
<i>Economically Active Women /Mothers</i>	
<i>Decline in the extended family</i>	
<i>Weakening Gender Identities</i>	
<i>Technology and living standards</i>	
<i>Commercialisation of domestic labour.</i>	

### March of Progress View: Wilmott and Young

Families are becoming more equal and democratic. There is a move away from the separate conjugal roles of Talcott Parsons and move towards more joint conjugal roles. With women going out to work, men need to take more of an active role in the family and couples are more likely to spend their leisure time together.

### Decision Making in the family: Money

Thinkers	Explanation
<i>McIntosh &amp; Barrett</i>	
<i>Kempson</i>	
<i>Pahl and Volger</i>	

### Decision Making in the family

Thinkers	Explanation
<i>Edgell (1980)</i>	
<i>Laurie and Gurshunny (2000)</i>	
<i>Feminists</i>	

### To what extent has the level of change in domestic division of labour been exaggerated?

	Explanation	Evidence
NO	Wilmott and Young – Rise of the Symmetrical Family.	
Yes	Dual burden and Triple Shift	
	Views on Housework	
	Same Sex couples	



**means** that a social phenomena is not naturally occurring but instead is created by society and varies from culture to culture.

**Biological Determination means** that something including social phenomena is regulated by biology

**A Child is** a difficult term to define, legally it is someone below the age of majority, biologically it is someone before they hit puberty. Different cultures will also have different ideas on what a child is.

**Childhood is** the period of time that a person is considered to be a child.

No

Is childhood a social construction?

Yes

Separateness: Pilcher	
Socially Separated	
Physical Immaturity	
Psychological Immaturity	
Dominate Framework: James and Prout	
Children	Simple and Amoral
Adults	Complex and Moral

Sensible Analytical Approach	
Definition	
Explanation / Evidence	

Cultural Relativity	
Explanation	<b>BENEDICT</b> - Childhood varies from culture to culture and within cultures itself.
Evidence	
Historical Relativity	
Explanation	<b>ARIES</b> - Childhood has changed over time and what we now consider to be childhood is a modern construction.
Evidence	