



Cambridge Assessment
International Education

Example Candidate Responses – Paper 2

Cambridge International AS & A Level Sociology 9699

For examination from 2024



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Introduction

The main aim of this booklet is to exemplify standards for those teaching Cambridge International AS & A Level Sociology, and to show how different levels of candidates' performance (high, middle and low) relate to the syllabus requirements. This document helps teachers to assess the standards required to achieve marks beyond the guidance of the mark scheme.

In this booklet, candidate responses have been chosen from the June 2024 exam series to exemplify a range of answers.

For each question, the response is annotated with examiner comments about where and why marks were awarded or omitted. This is followed by comments on how the answer could be improved. There is also a list of common mistakes and guidance for candidates for each question.

Please refer to the June 2024 Examiner Report for further details and guidance.

The questions and mark schemes are available on the [School Support Hub](#)

9699 June 2024 Question Paper 22

9699 June 2024 Mark Scheme 22

Past exam resources and other teaching and learning resources are available on the [School Support Hub](#)

How to use this booklet

This booklet goes through the paper one question at a time, showing you the high-, middle- and low level response for each question. In the left-hand column are the candidate responses, and in the right-hand column are the examiner comments.

| Example Candidate Response – high | Examiner comments |
|--|---|
| <p>1 One way family has become child centred is because of child protection agencies. As nowadays there are many child protection agencies which lead to parents are taking 2 better care of these children due to the fear of the child is mistreated they might be taken away.</p> <p>3 Another reason is because of the decrease of children within family. As compared to the 1960s where families had 5-6 children where as now they have 2 or lessor children this has led to child's parents being able to focus more on them due to the amount of care being</p> | <p>1 The candidate identifies the first valid way (child protection agencies).</p> <p>2 The candidate now describes how this shows the family has become more child-centred.</p> <p>3 The candidate identifies the second valid way (decrease of children in the family).</p> |
| <p>Responses are written by real candidates in exam conditions, demonstrating the types of answers for each level. These could be used to discuss and analyse the answers with learners in the classroom to improve their skills.</p> | <p>Examiner comments explain where and why marks were awarded. These help to interpret the standard of Cambridge exams to help learners refine their exam technique.</p> |

How the candidate could improve their answer

Two clear developed points describing the term were needed to obtain full marks. In this answer, only the 'care taker' point was developed. A different second developed point such as financial support was required.

This section explains how the candidate could improve each response. It helps learners to improve their exam technique.

Common mistakes and guidance for candidates

- Not focusing responses on the context of family as required by the question, producing responses in the context of society in general.
- Not providing a relevant description to the identified way.
- Not providing the required two points/descriptions.
- Identifying more than the two points required.
- Not making each point clearly identifiable. Candidates should

This section lists common mistakes as well as helpful guidance from the examiner. This will help your learners to avoid these mistakes. You can use this alongside the relevant Examiner Report to guide your learners.

Question 1

Example Candidate Response – high

Examiner comments

1 One way family has become child centred is because of child protection agencies. As nowadays there are many child protection agencies which lead to parents ~~are taking~~ 2 better care of their children due to the fear if the child is mistreated they might be taken away.

3 Another reason is because of the decrease of children within family. As compared to the 1960s where families had 5-6 children where as now they have 2 or lessor 4 children this has led to ~~children~~ parents being able to focus more on them due to the amount of care being decreased because of lesser children.

- 1 The candidate identifies the first valid way (child protection agencies).
- 2 The candidate now describes how this shows the family has become more child-centred.
- 3 The candidate identifies the second valid way (decrease of children in the family).
- 4 The candidate now describes how this shows the family has become more child-centred.

Total mark awarded =
4 out of 4

How the candidate could improve their answer

Two clear developed points describing the term were needed to obtain full marks. In this answer, only the 'care taker' point was developed. A different second developed point such as financial support was required.

Example Candidate Response – middle

Examiner comments

1 one way the family has become child-centred is because the experience of ~~childhood~~ childhood 2 has become more protected than before. Childhood is now seen as an innocent and ~~too~~ vulnerable experience which has led to parents becoming more protective of their children.

3 Another way the family has become child-centred is due to the traditional expectations of the extended family. This is because it outlines that the nuclear family's main goal should ~~be~~ be to reproduce and produce children.

- 1 The candidate identifies the first valid way (become more protected than before).
- 2 The candidate provides relevant description of the way.
- 3 The second attempt lacks a focus on the specific context of the family becoming child-centred, and therefore is considered too vague and not awarded any marks.

Total mark awarded =
2 out of 4

How the candidate could improve their answer

Two clear descriptions that developed the identification points were needed to obtain full marks. For example, with the first point showing what form care might take or who might perform the role. In this case, they were absent.

Example Candidate Response – low

Examiner comments

3) One way in which family has become more child centred is fathers have begun to dedicated themselves in childcare more often than not. The study interview conducted by Young and Willmott show this.

Another way in which family has become more child centred is even in gay and lesbian relationship they raise and nurture children showing that no matter the dynamic family still remain child centred.

- 1 The candidate identifies a relevant way.
- 2 This is irrelevant and adds no value to the response, so no marks are awarded.
- 3 The candidate provides no description for the first identified way for the additional mark to be awarded.
- 4 This second attempt is all irrelevant and therefore no marks are awarded.

Total mark awarded = 1 out of 4

How the candidate could improve their answer

- For the description mark of the valid identified way, the candidate needed to have provided a response such as... the growth of 'new fathers' who are increasingly prioritising the child's welfare.
- The second attempted way needed to be clearly focused on a way the family has become child-centred.

Common mistakes and guidance for candidates

- Not focusing responses on the context of family as required by the question, producing responses in the context of society in general.
- Not providing a relevant description to the identified way.
- Not providing the required two points/descriptions.
- Identifying more than the two points required.
- Not making each point clearly identifiable. Candidates should, for example, clearly number each response.

Question 2(a)

Example Candidate Response – high

Examiner comments

2) One way that ~~bet~~ men benefit more than women from family life is through emotional benefits. This can be backed up by the warm bath theory by Parsons, which state that the role of the women is to 'de-stress' the man who comes home from work stressed. This provides the man an opportunity to relax and have no burden in their mind. However the man may choose to express his relief in rather violent manners which may disadvantage the women (abuse and domestic violence). ~~B~~ And ~~as~~ they will have no requirement to look after their children in ~~the~~ traditional segregated nuclear families ~~to~~ ~~as~~ reducing stress further and boosting the man's emotional benefit compared to the woman in the family who gets all these added stress. ~~therefore~~

Another ^{benefit} reason is ~~the~~ that men typically have the [^] upper hand, the most influential voice in the family. ~~due to the instrumentat~~ This is common ~~is~~ in patriarchal families ~~to~~ ~~as~~ where the key decisions are always taken by the man in ~~the~~ a family. This ~~can~~ be the reason behind this could be due to the instrumental roles (Parson's) men typically take up in these patriarchal families ~~this~~ as then they are seen as the primary earner (the bread winner) of the family. This disadvantages women as it lowers their ~~voice~~ power within a family. Therefore why ~~men~~ men benefit more as they have increased ~~power~~ power.

- 1 First identified way (through the emotional benefits).
- 2 The candidate explains the identified way so another mark is awarded.
- 3 The candidate gives relevant sociological material/evidence.
- 4 The candidate applies the sociological material to the original way identified, so another mark is awarded.
- 5 None of this part of the response is required, as all 4 marks for the first way have already been earned by the candidate and this adds nothing more to the response.
- 6 The candidate identifies the second relevant way (having the most influential voice).
- 7 The candidate explains the identified way.
- 8 The candidate gives relevant sociological material to back up the point.
- 9 The candidate applies the sociological material to the original point made identified, so another mark is awarded.

Total mark awarded = 8 out of 8

How the candidate could improve their answer

The candidate provided a very good response that gained full marks. However, they could have saved time in the first point, by staying focused and not providing the additional, unnecessary paragraph identified by point 5 above.

Example Candidate Response – middle

Examiner comments

(a) Firstly, men can benefit more than women in family life, because women always do more or all housework and domestic chores, while men can work freely. Childcare is also usually perceived as female responsibility, while fathers can ~~can~~ usually contribute only partially. In this way, while most women are expected to both work on paid employment and spend time with children or doing housework, men are only expected to work and provide for the family.

Secondly, men usually have more economic power within the family, especially if ~~if~~ they are the only ones working. Men usually make most important financial decisions, in which women who do not work have little or no influence. In the same way, women who do not work can find themselves in economic dependency from their husband, because of which it sometimes can be hard to end the marriage ^{in favor} as a result of abuse of domestic violence.

1 The candidate identifies the first way.

2 The candidate explains the identified way.

3 The candidate does not provide any sociological evidence, and therefore cannot be awarded the two additional marks available.

4 The candidate identifies the second way.

5 The candidate explains the identified way further for another mark to be awarded.

6 Again, the candidate does not provide any sociological evidence, and therefore cannot be awarded the two additional marks available.

**Total mark awarded =
4 out of 8**

How the candidate could improve their answer

The candidate provided two relevant ways and explained them, however, in both instances they did not provide sociological material/evidence (e.g. concepts/sociologists) in support of the points made.

Example Candidate Response – low

Examiner comments

a There are many reasons with both the benefit of men and women. But the benefit of men being more than women in married life should be because in most families **2** male are dominant and the bread winners of the family so they have a better position in **1** Authority. Their decision is seen as final and women only speak for opinions or suggestions.

3

Another Reason can be that since male are the bread winners and earners of the family the work males do benefits them more as they are being paid for it. on the other hand females don't get paid for the household work that they do.

4

1 The candidate gives the first identified way.

2 The candidate explains the identified way.

3 The candidate provides no sociological material so no further marks can be awarded here.

4 This attempt at a second way lacks focus on the question and does not address how men benefit more than women from family life. It is irrelevant and no marks are awarded.

**Total mark awarded =
2 out of 8**

How the candidate could improve their answer

- In the first point/way, the candidate needed to provide and apply some relevant sociological material/evidence, in order to be awarded the additional marks available.
- The second attempt needed to clearly focus on, and address, how men benefit more than women from family life. Stating that men get paid for their employment whereas women do not get paid for domestic work, is not answering the question and is therefore not awarded any marks.

Common mistakes and guidance for candidates

- In this particular question, candidates focusing on the burden or oppression that women experience, rather than explicitly addressing ways benefit more than women from family life. That is, what do men gain that women do not?
- A common mistake is for candidates to not focus their responses on the actual question set.
- Not supporting points made with sociological material/evidence.
- Providing more than the two points required.

Question 2(b)

Example Candidate Response – high

Examiner comments

| | |
|---|---|
| 6 | <p>One limitation of the radical feminist view is that it does not acknowledge the progress and changes that have been made to improve women's status in family. They believe that family is a patriarchal structure that is based on exploitation of women as domestic labourers. However, many families have now become symmetrical and men and women share responsi economic and domestic responsibilities, which means women are no longer as oppressed as radical feminists claim them to be.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Another limitation of this is that radical feminists ignore the potential benefits women gain through the family. Radical feminists believe that as families are patriarchal at their core women will always be in a disadvantaged position in the family and experience struggles there. However, many women find emotional comfort and love within the family from their partner, parents, and children.</p> |

1 The candidate identifies the first limitation.

2 The candidate then explains what it is about radical feminism that leads it to have this as a limitation, so another mark is awarded.

3 The candidate then explains why it is a limitation.

4 The candidate identifies the second limitation.

5 The candidate then explains what it is about radical feminism that leads it to have this as a limitation, so another mark can be awarded.

6 The candidate then explains why it is a limitation, leading to the final mark being awarded to the candidate.

**Total mark awarded =
6 out of 6**

How the candidate could improve their answer

No improvements could have been made here as full marks were awarded. The candidate provided two relevant limitations, each explaining what it is about the theoretical approach that leads to them having these limitations, and then explains why the identified limitations of radical feminism are limitations.

Example Candidate Response – middle

Examiner comments

b One limitation of the radical feminist view is that it overexaggerates the oppression of women in the family, such as domestic violence. Radical feminists say that oppression of women occurs in every family and that family is never a good thing for the woman, only for the man and children. Another limitation of the radical feminist views of the family is that it ignores the fact that not all relationships are male dominated. Many marriages are female dominated and ~~then~~ in many marriages men are oppressed and sometimes abused.

- 1 The candidate identifies the first limitation of radical feminism.
- 2 The candidate then explains what it is about radical feminism that leads it to have this as a limitation, so the second mark is awarded.
- 3 The candidate does not address the third element, that is, why the identified limitation of radical feminism is a limitation. The third mark cannot be awarded.
- 4 The candidate identifies the second limitation of radical feminism.
- 5 The candidate then explains why it is a limitation.
- 6 The candidate does not address what it is about the theoretical approach, that leads it to have this as a limitation.

Total mark awarded = 4 out of 6

How the candidate could improve their answer

- In the first point, the candidate needed to state why the limitation of radical feminism, is a limitation for the third mark available.
- In the second point, the candidate did state why it is a limitation (unlike the first point) but needed to state what it is about radical feminism that leads them to have the identified limitation, such as their belief that women will never be free from oppression in the family. Therefore, it was awarded only 2 marks from the available 3 marks.

Example Candidate Response – low

Examiner comments

| | |
|---|---|
| b | One limitation of radical feminist views of the family |
| 1 | is that they exaggerate the imbalance of power and patriarchy within a family. During the last century, |
| 2 | men have changed. The 'New Man' is caring, gentle |
| 3 | and caters to the needs and emotions of the family. |
| 4 | Another limitation is that families are becoming more |
| 3 | symmetrical. Family is changing from being an institution based on power patriarchy to be one based on |
| 4 | democracy and equality. Women are getting paid |
| 3 | jobs and men are contributing to domestic chores and childcare more than before. |

1 The candidate identifies the first limitation of radical feminism.

2 The candidate is awarded a second mark as the candidate explains why it is a limitation.

3 The candidate does not address what it is about the theoretical approach, that leads it to have this as a limitation.

4 All of this is irrelevant, as it does not provide a limitation of radical feminism. Rather, it is simply stating changes in the family. No marks are awarded for this part of the answer.

**Total mark awarded =
2 out of 6**

How the candidate could improve their answer

- In the first point/limitation, the candidate needed to state what it is about radical feminism that leads them to have the identified limitation.
- The second attempt needed to first clearly focus on a valid limitation of radical feminism, then subsequently address what it is about the approach that leads it to have this as a limitation, and then address why it is a limitation.

Common mistakes and guidance for candidates

- Candidates not providing clear limitations (or strengths if that is what the question requires), of the theoretical perspective. A common error was for candidates to simply state something about the theoretical approach, rather than identify a valid limitation or strength.
- Commonly, candidates failed to address what it is about the theoretical approach that leads it to having the identified limitation or strength.
- Only providing one limitation or strength when two were required.

Question 3(a)

Example Candidate Response – high

Examiner comments

a

1 The extent of family diversity has been exaggerated as the nuclear family still remains dominant within society. Although there is an increase in family diversity, statistics show that the presence of the nuclear family is still the most common family type. To support this, Robert Chester states that other family types are built around the model of the nuclear family. He proposes the idea of the neo-conventional family, this is ultimately the nuclear family but far more equal with shared conjugal roles and also their being dual earner families. He also suggests that statistics about the nuclear family are misleading, arguing that family diversity is not more dominant than the nuclear family. Therefore, this shows that the extent of family diversity has been exaggerated. This is because although family diversity is on the increase, the nuclear family remains the most popular and common type.

2

3 Another way how the extent of family diversity has been exaggerated, is that other family types are only temporary and have not taken over the dominance of the nuclear family. An example of this is cohabitation. This involves people living together but are not yet married. Statistics show that this is on the increase from 20% in 2011, to 25% in 2021. Although, this family type is increasing, it exaggerates the idea of family diversity because people don't choose to live in this family type forever. Cohabitation can be seen as a 'try before you buy', this is the idea that people are in this family form to see whether they want to marry their partner because the act of divorce can be a long and complex process. This shows the extent of family diversity has been exaggerated because people are still choosing to marry and live in nuclear families, however are just delaying it.

4

5

1 The candidate makes the first point (nuclear family remains dominant...) and applies relevant sociological material (Chester, neo-conventional family) to support this point.

2 The response engages the sociological material, moving beyond description to expand and makes a developed point.

3 The candidate makes a clear and relevant second point (other family types are temporary/ do not dominate the nuclear family).

4 The candidate illustrates the point made through the example of cohabitation, directly addressing the claim and unpacking this into a developed point.

5 This response therefore is an example of two developed points made, to reach the top level of marks available.

Total mark awarded = 10 out of 10

How the candidate could improve their answer

This response achieved full marks for providing two developed (relevant) points. It does not require improvement as the candidate provided everything required of them.

Example Candidate Response – middle

Examiner comments

- (a) This view claims that family structures have been more or less the same with nuclear family being the most common as Murdoch stated that the nuclear family is universal. Chester also pointed out that about 96% of the population has been ~~at~~ a part of a nuclear family structure at one point in their lives. Family diversity has been exaggerated as the nuclear family is still the most widely accepted and prevalent form of family as according to Parsons it is the best family type to carry out socialisation and stabilisation of adult personalities.
- The New Right also is in support of this view.
- Secondly the nuclear family is closely related to capitalism as stated by Marxists. Marxists focus on nuclear families and if other forms of family structures were taking over capitalism would have been declining. However this is not the case as capitalism is booming and at an all time high. This further proves how if nuclear families were decreasing it would have had a huge impact on society and be
- clearly visible.

1 The candidate makes the first point (nuclear family is the most common), and supports this through sociological material/evidence, i.e. it is universal (Murdoch), and with reference to Chester.

2 The candidate expands upon this point, moving beyond description, applying relevant sociological material to explain the point made. This is considered a developed point.

3 The candidate makes a second relevant point (the nuclear family has a close relationship with capitalism).

4 Whilst the candidate makes a valid point, it lacks in application of sociological material, relying largely on description. It moves beyond a simple statement made, but does not engage enough to be considered developed, rather it is underdeveloped.

5 This candidate's response, therefore, is an example of one developed point made and one underdeveloped point, to reach top of the middle band of marks available.

**Total mark awarded =
7 out of 10**

How the candidate could improve their answer

The second point made by the candidate, lacked the engagement of sociological material to expand the claim made (compare to the examples of developed points). The response was largely descriptive, and would have been improved, for example, by demonstrating what it is about the nuclear family that capitalism relies so heavily upon, that other more diverse family forms could not provide.

Example Candidate Response – low

Examiner comments

(a) The argument that the extent of family diversity has been exaggerated is the main criticism of Postmodernist view, which claims that there are many family types in modern industrial societies, and this diversity should be celebrated. While family diversity, true for developed countries, like UK, there is much less family types in developing and under-developed countries, like Africa. With less possibility of personal choice, especially for women who do not work, and less social acceptance of types, like same-sex families, people in such countries tend to choose nuclear family, which remains dominant.

The view is also explained by the fact that nuclear family still tends to be most preferable. The emphasis on traditional nuclear family was strongly put in UK in 1980s, when Thatcher advocated for 'New Right' perspective. It sees heterosexual nuclear family as most suitable for industrial society, as it promotes moral commitment and social responsibility. Family diversity is thus seen as dysfunctional and harmful, as it leads to moral chaos and ~~from~~ ^{many families} dependence on government's aid.

- 1 All of this introduction is irrelevant to answering the question.
- 2 This is the start of a relevant first point.
- 3 The candidate's response moves beyond a simple statement, however, it is descriptive and lacks in sociological evidence to support it. Therefore, it is considered underdeveloped.
- 4 The candidate makes a second point (the nuclear family is the most preferable). However, this is a simple statement as what follows is irrelevant.
- 5 None of this is relevant to the argument as it is simply a point of view of the New Right. It is not evidence that the nuclear family is the most widely chosen family form / the most common family.
- 6 The candidate's response, therefore, is an example of one underdeveloped point made and one relevant but undeveloped point, to reach the bottom of the middle band of marks available.

Total mark awarded = 4 out of 10

How the candidate could improve their answer

- The first point needed the candidate to apply relevant sociological material/evidence to support the claim made, engaging it to move beyond relying on description within a somewhat common-sense response.
- The second point needed to ensure it focused the discussion on the actual question itself. The candidate mistakenly focused on why the New Right think the nuclear family *should be* the most dominant family type, rather than addressing how it *actually is* the most common/dominant family type.

Common mistakes and guidance for candidates

- As demonstrated in the low response example above, candidates do not provide material relevant to the actual question set.
- Candidates do not apply relevant sociological material to develop their discussions.
- Candidates provide only one point/argument.
- Providing an evaluation of the statement, which is not required as candidates do this in **Q3(b)**.
- There is no need for introductions and/or conclusions. Candidates should get straight into their points.

Question 3(b)

Example Candidate Response – high

Examiner comments

b This view is not true to a great extent. Family diversity in this modern day and age has significantly ~~is~~ increased especially in Western societies, which influences other societies too. Beck and Beck-Gernsheim argue that individuals are more likely to reject the social stigma and pressures of getting married and being ~~committed~~ and prefer to live by their own ~~choice~~ ^{committed} choice. ~~Due~~ This increased choice refers to the many different options of living such as living alone in an apartment, sharing an apartment, ~~cohabitation~~ cohabitation, single parent families, reconstituted families and so ~~on~~ on. This demonstrates that individuals are no longer confined to one family structure and can change depending on their circumstances. Hughes and Church argue that cohabitation increased by 10% in ~~1886~~ 1886 and by 25% in 2006. This shows that people are becoming more individualistic and choosing ~~the~~ arrangements that cater to their own needs. Carol Smart suggests that not only are there different arrangements, people experience ~~more~~ more than one family type throughout their life course. Therefore, Judith Stacey argues that family diversity is increasing rapidly and here to stay as people will not go back to living in their old ways in a new reflexively modern world where everything is blurred.

1 The candidate begins a relevant argument against the statement.

2 The candidate begins to unpack the point, starting to explain why family diversity has increased in western societies.

3 The candidate uses multiple applications of relevant sociological evidence to support the point made (Beck-Gernsheim, Hughes & Church, Stacey, etc.).

4 The candidate continues to unpack and explain the argument and applies further reasons.

5 The candidate provides one, unpacked, well developed and sophisticated argument, applying relevant sociological evidence/material to support this.

**Total mark awarded =
6 out of 6**

How the candidate could improve their answer

This response does not require improvement and illustrates what candidates should be aiming for in achieving full marks.

Example Candidate Response – middle

Examiner comments

(b) One argument against the view that the extent of family diversity has been exaggerated is that post modernists believe that as society changes and times evolve, social structures are changing and traditional nuclear family is no longer the ideal family structure. Various factors such as Globalization and evolving ideologies have shown that ~~there~~ there is a lot of range in people's thought process and preference, and as this continues to ~~and~~ ~~states~~ evolve, families will become more and more diverse as many social stigmas are gone now regarding gender, sexuality, marriage being seen as compulsory, as well as childbirth, and divorce being a taboo. This proves that family diversity has not been exaggerated and argues that it may continue to evolve as times progress.

1 The candidate begins a relevant argument against here.

2 The candidate attempts to apply sociological material, e.g. postmodernists, globalisation.

3 The candidate's sociological evidence is quite limited in unpacking the argument, relying to some extent on description. They do not really explore globalisation, rather it is implied. Therefore, the response is considered underdeveloped.

**Total mark awarded =
4 out of 6**

How the candidate could improve their answer

The candidate needed to do more with the point made, e.g. develop it by clearly explaining the relevance/impact of globalisation. This almost becomes irrelevant therefore, relying on the simple identification of postmodernists believe... as its sociological supporting material.

Example Candidate Response – low

Examiner comments

(b) One argument is that although exaggerated, they are still being seen and approve by the member of the society. In modern society their is less view on the fact that nuclear and extended families are the maintype. Even though they are considered the maintype in countries like pakistan and India, family diversity can openly be seen now in countries like America. They are still performing the core function which is to reproduce and socialize the new generation thus completing their functions and being recognized by the society.

1 The candidate gives an opening that is too vague.

2 Here, the relevant point against begins, however it is simplistic in simply stating that in modern western societies, diversity can be seen.

3 From here on, the response is irrelevant.

Total mark awarded = 2 out of 6

How the candidate could improve their answer

The candidate could have moved beyond a simplistic statement against, engaging relevant sociological material to unpack and develop the point. For example, they could have explained why there has been an increase in family diversity in western societies (growth of secularisation, individualism, economic independence of women etc.).

Common mistakes and guidance for candidates

- Not applying sociological material/evidence to support the argument, relying on common-sense / general knowledge.
- Making a statement and not developing it and sufficiently unpacking the argument. The question awards up to 6 marks for one argument, and thus indicates the quality required from the candidate.
- Providing more than one argument required.

Question 5

Example Candidate Response – high

Examiner comments

1 With so many diverse views of the role of family, it is not simple to determine which one may be the most suitable. These diverse views include Marxism, with its main focus on the role of family in contribution to economy; functionalism, which focuses upon the ways ~~to~~ family overall benefits its members and the society; feminism, focussing on the position of women in family and other perspectives like post-modernism and New Rights.

2 Marxist explanations of the family's ^{roles} mainly state how the family works in order to benefit the bourgeoisie, i.e. the ruling class. They focus on the ways family is responsible of maintaining capitalism in the society. This is, firstly, through ideological control.

3 According to Althusser, family is the 'Ideological State Apparatus,' which means it is responsible for socialisation of children and instilling in their minds the importance of work and capitalism. Zaretsky argued that family is responsible for

1 This introduction simply sets up the candidate's response, with points raised examined in the body of the response, therefore no mark awarded here.

2 The candidate begins a relevant point in support of the question statement (AO1).

3 The candidate goes on to apply relevant sociological material/evidence, e.g. Althusser and ideological state apparatus, Zaretsky, ruling-class ideology, etc.

Example Candidate Response – high, continued

Examiner comments

| | |
|---|--|
| 4 | <p>socialising children in a way that they are taught the ruling class ideology. This argument gives a good understanding of the family as playing the role of ideological control of its members and children.</p> |
| 5 | <p>Moreover, the Marxist explanations also focus upon the 'consumer role' of the family. They believe that families are mainly responsible for consumerism (Althusser), i.e. buying goods and services rather than producing their own like in the past. Zaretsky also argues that family families are mainly of the targets of so many brands and advertisements, all of which contribute to the economy and benefits the ruling class. It is also argued by Robertson that families contribute to capitalism as the children of the family have now become consumers due to the blurring of child identities. Therefore, this role of the family as consumers, explained by the</p> |
| 6 | <p>Marxists, tells the how family plays a significant part in the economy.</p> |
| 7 | <p>There Furthermore, Marxist do not fail to recognize the aspects of family life within the households. They also talk about political economy, i.e. the role of the family a in terms of emotional and financial dependence which leads to contribution to the economy. As per Zaretsky, the family is mainly responsible for pressurizing the men to work, so they can earn and provide for their families back home. They or do not exercise power or dominance in the workplace because they are</p> |

4 The candidate unpacks and sufficiently develops this point.

5 The candidate begins a second point in support of the question (AO1), which is supported through the application of relevant sociological material.

6 Again, the candidate sufficiently unpacks this point to be considered developed.

7 The candidate provides a further AO1 point. However, the point is considered this time as underdeveloped, as the point is not unpacked with enough sociological material.

Example Candidate Response – high, continued

Examiner comments

know the importance of working for their families. This way, the bourgeoisie are benefitted, while the family plays the roles of ~~creating~~^{maintaining} a capitalist structure.

In addition to this, the Marxist explanations to the family roles given by Marxist feminists tend to focus on the position of women in the family while they are exploited by both patriarchy and capitalism. It is a very good explanation, since, unlike radical ~~for~~ feminists, they focus on how capitalism exploits women both in the workplace, due to lower pay for example, and ~~is~~ at home, where men benefit from their ~~unpaid~~ unpaid domestic labour. It is argued that women act as a 'sponge' absorbing all the male frustrations while they work to earn for their families. Women are also at a disadvantage since they are a 'reserve army of labour,' only called to the workplace when there is a shortage of male workers. They also talk about the 'triple shift' where alongside work – both domestic and at workplace, women are also responsible for ~~providing~~ providing psychological and emotional support for their families.

Therefore, the overall Marxist evaluation of the role of family mainly relates to its contribution in ~~the~~ capitalism. They neither neglect the fact that family is responsible for primary socialisation of children and nor the fact that women are exploited in families, however, they give ~~a~~ a more economic aspect to each role of the family, while other sociologists may argue

otherwise.

8 The candidate unpacks another point sufficiently in support, with relevant sociological material applied. This point therefore is considered developed.

9 The candidate makes good use of relevant sociological concepts to develop the point made.

10 The candidate begins making a clear evaluative point (AO3) as opposed to juxtaposition. The point continues into the functionalist material that follows.

Example Candidate Response – high, continued

Examiner comments

According to functionalists, such as Murdock, the main role of the family is ~~to~~ providing primary socialisation for children^{ren}, reproduction, ~~and~~ sexual control and economic provision. They argue that a person's biological parents are best suited to their upbringing because they have a personal investment in child's growth and development. In contradiction to the Marxist view, functionalists ~~believe~~ believe that family is necessary for ~~the~~ its members so they can have adequate socialisation, love and support, ~~and~~ and its ~~main~~ role is positive and ~~not~~ it does not only ~~benefit~~ benefit capitalism. As per Parsons, family is responsible for 'stabilisation of adult personalities,' which is providing for them psychological and emotional support. The family acts as a 'warm bath' and benefits all its members equally.

Moreover, functionalists like ~~Fletcher~~ Fletcher also talk about the different types of roles of the family, including core and peripheral functions. He argues that the core functions are only suitable for the family to perform, therefore he gives the explanation of role of family in terms of upbringing and socialisation rather than benefitting capitalism. New Rights thinkers also believe that family is suitable for producing functional members of the society ~~at~~ that conforms to its norms and values. They give evidence on how 'fatherless' children tend to be involved in deviant and criminal activities and are dependant upon

11 The candidate uses relevant functionalist concepts to unpack the point.

12 This part of the response culminates in a developed point of evaluation. If it was not for the clear evaluative statement/assessment made in the build-up in this point at the end of the previous paragraph (evaluating the role of family members according to Marxism), this functionalist paragraph would be considered juxtaposition rather than explicit evaluation.

13 The candidate makes a further brief evaluation.

14 The candidate makes a juxtaposed point rather than explicit evaluation, and it is underdeveloped.

Example Candidate Response – high, continued

Examiner comments

state benefits, hence the family is extremely necessary for performing this role for its children.

15 According to feminists, such as radical feminists, the main role of the family ~~is~~ is to exploit women ~~and~~ through patriarchy. They talk about official statistics showing records of domestic violence against women and tell that ~~the~~ family is a negative experience for women. Some extremists like Greer also state that women are better off without nuclear families, such as in all-women societies or lesbian relationships. They argue that the role of family is not suitable or beneficial for women. Black feminists, however, take the alternate view stating that family is a safe haven from racism. Therefore, different feminist perspectives have different views over the role of family.

16 Lastly, postmodernists believe that family is what someone wants it to be. Weston argues that 'families of choice' are becoming increasingly common. They endorse family diversity, and since they think there is no definite explanation to what a family is, ~~to~~ it cannot be determined what the role of a family is. Different family structures can build mutual understanding over what roles they want it to perform.

17 Conclusively, there are many contradictory views to the explanation that the role of family is to support and promote capitalism, given by the Marxists. It is evident that the

family has played diverse roles and there have been many changes as well. It would not be fair to say that this is the best explanation for the role of a family; however, in today's capitalist society, it is an adequate explanation.

15 The candidate makes a further juxtaposed AO3 point, which they sufficiently unpack and apply sociological material to be considered developed.

16 The candidate makes a final point against the argument, and again is juxtaposed rather than an explicit evaluation.

17 The candidate draws their response to a close, with a conclusion. They give a brief summary of what has been discussed, with no new points to award.

Mark for AO1 = 8 out of 8
Mark for AO2 = 6 out of 8
Mark for AO3 = 8 out of 10

**Total mark awarded =
22 out of 26**

How the candidate could improve their answer

- To reach the top level of AO3, the points needed to be explicit evaluations, whilst the brief/simple evaluative statement needed some development and expansion.
- The conclusion could have been used to make some judgement of the opposing arguments, weighing up their contributions to the question.
- To improve AO2, the sociological material/evidence needed to be consistently applied to answering the specificness of the question (see comment below on common mistakes bullet 2).

Example Candidate Response – middle

Examiner comments

There are several views that argue about the roles of the family, the Marxist view may be the most crucial.

- 1 To start with, Engels argues that the (nuclear) family promotes capitalism by ensuring that all wealth and property are only inherited by direct relatives/children. This increases the ability for individual(s) to monopolise wealth. Also, as extended families/tribes may have had several partners who they were sexually engaging with ~~sexually~~, they were less likely to know their biological kin and would then share their wealth and property, unlike nuclear families with one mother and father.
- 2 Moreover, Zaretsky argues that the family is an ideology used to exploit the working class and favour capitalists. He argues that (working-class) families socialise their children into false consciousness and to not fight against ~~postmodernism~~ ^{capitalism} but to instead be passive workers. This causes the workers to allow themselves to be exploited and to accept their position as opposed to fighting against the capitalist system. This demonstrates the negative impact the family has on the working-class individuals.
- 3 Furthermore, ~~see m~~ Beynon carried out a ~~st~~ ^{past} study that found that companies, like Ford, preferred hiring ~~married~~ ^{married} men as they were less ~~an~~ likely to leave the job or go on strike. This is because they were motivated to provide for their family and were also able to return to work each day due to their wives acting as 'safety valves' and ~~also~~ absorbing their stress and frustrations from work, as Ansley argued. They would take out their anger and attempt to assert dominance in the home via ~~phs~~ physical and emotional violence (abuse towards his wife) - This shows ~~the~~ negative role that the family plays in order to promote capitalism.
- 4 However, there are ^{other} sociologists who have different explanations of the role of the family that may be more important. Firstly,

1 The candidate begins with the first supporting point. They unpack this with some explanation, but it can be considered underdeveloped.

2 The candidate provides a second AO1 supporting point, with some relevant sociological material. Again, only some unpacking and expansion to be considered underdeveloped.

3 The candidate makes a further supporting point, bringing to our attention the negative role the family plays according to Marxists. This is considered to be unpacked well, with sociological concepts used effectively to be considered a developed point.

4 The candidate makes good use of relevant sociological concepts.

Example Candidate Response – middle, continued

Examiner comments

5 Functionalists, like Parsons, argue that the family has two main roles. These are the primary socialisation of children which ensures that children are raised to be law abiding citizens individuals who conform to social norms. The second is the stabilisation of adult personalities as the family acts as a warm bath for the adults (especially the male breadwinner) to soothe them of their stresses and frustrations. This is positive unlike what Marxists argue.

6 Additionally, Murdock argues about the universality of the (nuclear) family as it performs the crucial functions of socialisation, regulation of sexual needs (for adults), education and reproducing. These are crucial functions that the family performs for the good of its members and wider society. New Right sociologists, Murray and Reicher, as well as argue that the (nuclear) family provides crucial socialisation that benefits society by discouraging criminality and deviance. These roles overtake the ~~best~~ roles explained by Marxists.

7 Lastly, Radical feminists, such as Green and Millett, argue that the family serves patriarchy before capitalism. They argue that the family exploits women as they are expected to take care of all household and childcare tasks while the man does not help as 'his work' is to be breadwinner. Green argues that women are subservient to their husbands. Also, Cheal argues that there is abuse in families and is mostly towards the women of the family. This shows that the family serves the misogynistic roles of patriarchy before capitalism, ~~as~~ ^{unlike what} Marxists may argue.

In conclusion, the Marxist explanations of the ^{roles of the} family do indeed apply and are relevant, as the family does benefit the capitalists (as they are the primary unit of consumption and the cereal packet family), but the family has other roles that

8 are more important than the need to benefit the capitalist class. Many of the functions of the family are positive for both its members, and the wider society.

5 The candidate makes an argument against (AO3), however it is not an explicit evaluation, as it simply provides an alternative role of the family rather than directly comparing the views of functionalists to Marxist explanations.

6 The candidate does the same here, in proposing an alternative role. Therefore, it is juxtaposition and not explicit elevation.

7 Again here, the candidate proposes an alternative role.

8 The candidate makes some limited attempt at making a judgment of the approaches.

Mark for AO1 = 6 out of 8
 Mark for AO2 = 6 out of 8
 Mark for AO3 = 6 out of 10

Total mark awarded = 18 out of 26

How the candidate could improve their answer

- The supporting AO1 points made needed to be unpacked further, as most were underdeveloped with limited explanation. These would have benefited from also being conceptually supported more.
- Whilst some counterarguments were made (AO3), they needed to be explicit evaluations as opposed to simply suggesting/presenting alternative views (see comment below on common mistakes bullet 5).
- The response could have applied a postmodernist examination/critique/rejection of the structuralist approaches of Marxism/functionalism/feminism.
- To improve AO2, the sociological material/evidence needed to be consistently applied to answering the specificness of the question (see comment below on common mistakes bullet 2).

Example Candidate Response – low

Examiner comments

- a) Marxist believe that all the problems in family roles are because of capitalism. They believe that nuclear family is not dominant or necessary for family roles unlike functionalist.
- 1 there are different marxist perspective of roles of family.
- The marxist Althusser believes that ~~everybody~~ working class in ~~obedient~~ obeying ruling class he talks about ideology state apparatus (~~ISA~~) (ISA) (ISA) which he says that the ruling class is brain washing and
- 2 making working class learn their ideology through media and education hence this is affecting roles of family as they are being influenced to cater to the ruling class.
- another marxist like Edgell says that a fathers job is to inherit their property to their heirs and it is a deal between women and men financially. as his view is that women are like prostitute that just are there to birth a child and he have a financial deal with that father hence these roles are the roles of family according to Edgell.
- 4 another marxist view of Zaretsky is that, men are exploited through work so family is shown as a escape route from men so they keep obeying to ~~the~~ ruling class by ~~keeping~~ being exploited and just using family as escape from

1 The candidate provides an introduction that sets up the response.

2 The candidate demonstrates a lack of focus here, not making a clear point in relation to the family, instead citing media and education. Therefore, it is considered irrelevant.

3 The candidate provides a relevant point to support the statement, however, it is simplistic and undeveloped and contains an error in the sociologist used (this should be Engels not Edgell).

4 The candidate gives a second supportive AO1 point, again undeveloped.

Example Candidate Response – low

Examiner comments

that exploitation.

Another way marxist offer understanding of family roles is saying that ruling class is also using family as a motivate

to buy goods and services like leisure like car, holidays etc that benefits the elites and makes more profit to them. also either using child in advertisement to motivate parents to buy stuff and use their children as a selling motivate. hence these are some of the way marxist

offer understanding about family roles. however, these explanation can not be the best understanding as marxist views on

family is out dated because no women marries a man for money like in edgell point of view.

also women are protected enough for so they do not have to rely on their men for money.

however hence there are other views that beg to differ.

functionalist believe that family is important roles especially nuclear family unlike marxist.

Peter murdock, a known functionalist, compared and studied 250 societies and all of them nuclear family was the important one as the nuclear family provides sexual, socialization, economic and reproduction. hence why that gives a better understanding of roles and the explanation for them.

5 The candidate gives a further point in support, and again undeveloped.

6 This point makes statements that are considered too vague.

7 The candidate makes a point against the argument AO3, with some relevant concepts and, although demonstrates a little vagueness, does move beyond a simple statement to be considered undeveloped.

Example Candidate Response – low

Examiner comments

Another functionalist parson believes that there are two roles of family that are for primary socialization of children and adult stabilization of personalities and parson believes that is the roles of the family and the understanding of their role.

8 Lastly, New right thinker believe that ~~children~~ adults should follow the traditional roles that are instrumental role for male being the breadwinner and women being the expressive roles as in the nurturing part of children's life.

9 In conclusion, marxist like althusser can give us a explanation and understanding of roles of family however there are some drawbacks of this perspective and there are other perspective existing like functionalist and new right which offer understanding and explanation of roles through their role views of family roles.

8 This New Right part is too vague and assertive, contributing nothing to the debate. What the New Right believe should happen, is not the same as what is happening.

9 The conclusion does not offer anything creditworthy.

Mark for AO1 = 3 out of 8
Mark for AO2 = 4 out of 8
Mark for AO3 = 5 out of 10

**Total mark awarded =
12 out of 26**

How the candidate could improve their answer

- The candidate needed to demonstrate more of a sociological awareness. Knowledge was conceptually quite limited, particularly the counterarguments. They needed to apply more, and relevant, sociological evidence/ concepts etc. The functionalist material was basic and they could have provided a feminist angle (radical/liberal/ Marxist/black) to improve their discussion.
- The response needed to move beyond simple and often descriptive statements, expanding upon points made, unpacking the point being made.
- Points need to be clear in their application to answering the question, avoiding vagueness.

Common mistakes and guidance for candidates

- Responses not reflecting the actual requirements of the question set.
- With this particular question, few candidates achieved in the top levels of marks as they neglected to address the context of the best understanding, instead relying on a discussion that simply examined the roles/functions of the family according to Marxism versus functionalism/feminism.
- Providing a one-sided response, either in support of, or against, the statement in the question.
- Not supporting arguments/points made with relevant sociological concepts, theories, etc., relying on description and/or common-sense and general knowledge.
- Counter points (AO3) made through juxtaposition rather than explicit evaluations. This is commonly demonstrated when candidates simply propose/present a differing approach, rather than actually using an alternative viewpoint to engage the question directly and create a value judgment (see comment on the high script).
- Responses that provide an insufficient number of points, limiting marks that can be awarded.

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