Key Issues

• What is the purpose of the family? What benefits does it provide for society and its members? (Functionalism/Marxism/Feminism/Postmodernism)

• Is the family equal? Are the power relationships between partners equal? Is there a march of progress towards equality?

• Is childhood socially constructed? Does it vary from society to society? Is childhood disappearing?

• What changes have there been to the family structure over the past 50 years? Is there such a thing as a typical family?

• How can governments influence family structures? Why would government prefer the nuclear family over others? Can the government influence gender equality?

• How has globalisation influenced the family? What demographic changes have led to changes in our society? What are the benefits and costs of greater migration and ageing populations?
The Big Question: Evaluate the contribution of Functionalists to our understanding of the family

- Define what is meant by a family
- Explain the difference between a family and a household
- Identify a range of functions the family performs
- Apply functionalist theory to the family
- Analyse the impact of these ideas
- Evaluate the impacts of these views

E → A*
What is a family? What is a household?

A family is...

A household is...

Define what is meant by a family

Explain the difference between a family and a household
Examples of families and households

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<tr>
<th>Program/Film</th>
<th>Family name or household type</th>
<th>Number of adults</th>
<th>Number of Children</th>
<th>Relationships</th>
<th>Type of Family</th>
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What does the family do for us?

Identify a range of functions the family performs
Functions of Family

G P Murdock – 4 universal functions found in the family

- Education into norms and values of society
- Sexual regulation and gender socialisation
- Economic support for it’s members
- Reproduction of the next generation

Talcott Parsons – 2 irreducible functions that can only be carried out by The family

- Primary Socialisation
- Stabilisation of Adult personalities

Apply functionalist theory to the family
How do these work? How do society and the individual benefit?

- Education into norms and values of society
- Economic support for its members
- Sexual regulation and gender socialisation
- Reproduction of the next generation
- Primary Socialisation
- Stabilisation of Adult personalities

Analyse the impact of these ideas
What might others suggest? What do they not explain?

Functionalist view the family as only being nuclear what is the problem with this?

Parsons and Murdoch wrote in the 1940s and 50s – what is wrong with this?

What might other theories suggest about the family?

Evaluate the impacts of these views.