

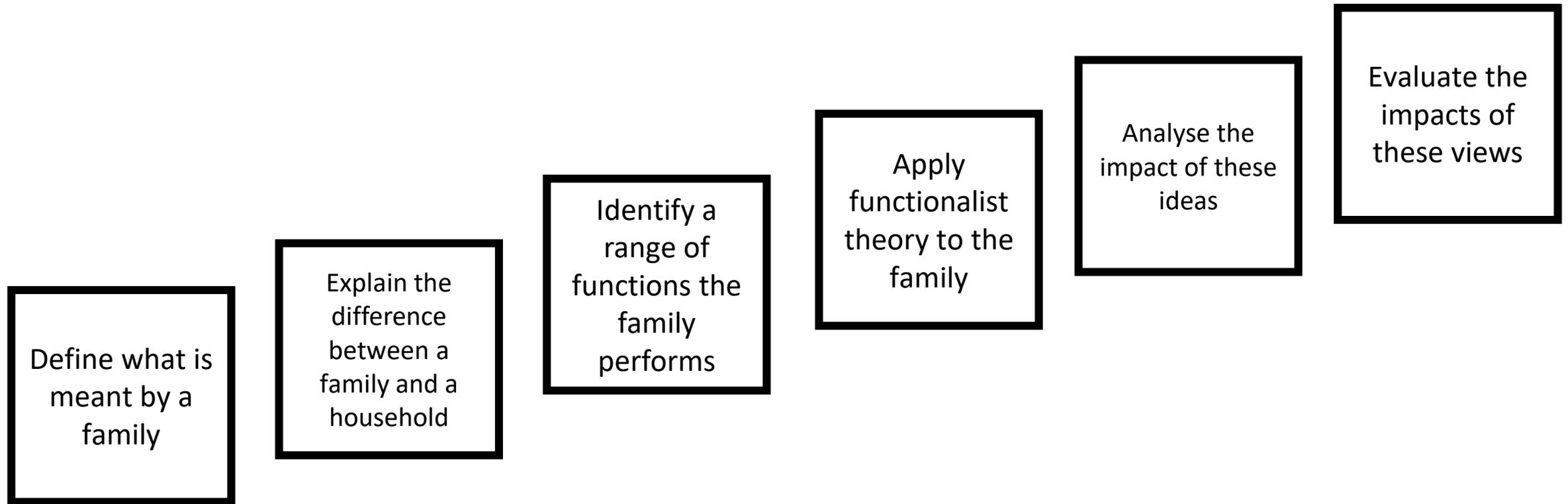
# Families and Household

Paper 2 – A level  
Sociology

# 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



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# What is a family? What is a household?

Define what is meant by a family

Explain the difference between a family and a household

A family is...

A household is...



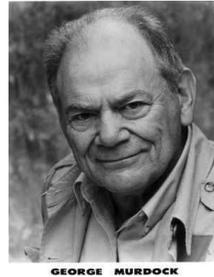
# What does the family do for us?

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 an only be carried out by The family



Primary Socialisation

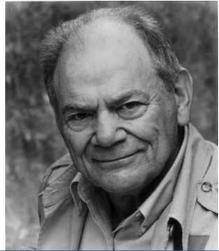
Stabilisation of Adult personalities



Apply functionalist theory to the family

# How do these work? How do society and the individual benefit?

Analyse the impact of these ideas



Education into norms and values of society

Economic support for it's members



Primary Socialisation

Sexual regulation and gender socialisation

Reproduction of the next generation

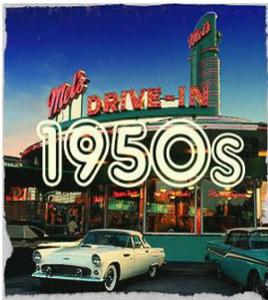
Stabilisation of Adult personalities

# What might others suggest? What do they not explain?

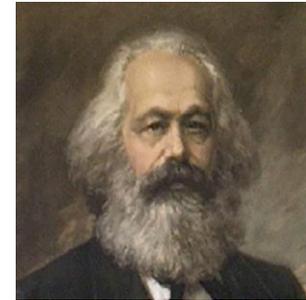
Evaluate the impacts of these views



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



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



What might other theories suggest about the family?