Families and Households – Modernity and the New Right
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 Modernism to our understanding of the family

- Define what is meant by modernity
- Explain the difference between modernity and pre-industrial
- Identify a range of features of the modernist family
- Outline Parson’s Functional Fit Theory
- Analyse The New Right Perspective on Family
- Evaluate the impacts of these views
AO1 – 10 mins

Define what is meant by modernity

Explain the difference between modernity and pre-industrial

Modernity is...

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What are the features of the modernist ‘nuclear’ family?
Illustrate the journey of the nuclear family according to Parsons
AO3 – Analysis - Explain why the New Right have these views

➤ Marriage is Essential to Social Stability
➤ The Nuclear Family is the Cornerstone of society

➤ Lone-Parents are unnatural & harmful to society.
➤ Traditional Values Male Breadwinners & Female Homemakers (Instrumental & Expressive)
The New Right think that only one type of family can adequately socialise children. What is wrong with this statement?

What might other theories suggest about the family?