

Marxist Critique of Functionalism

- 1) Teaching Gender Roles and Sexuality – this leads to children being conditioned into gender scripts and sees marriage as the norm
- 2) Reproduction - reproducing workers as heterosexuality is seen as the norm
- 3) Primary Socialisation – into the dominant ideology of the ruling classes – capitalism
- 4) Economic Support – suggests that the necessity to work will leave workers unable to strike for fear of the impact on their families
- 5) Stabilisation of Adult Personalities – workers are able to resume their duties as they are refreshed and replenished by their wives



Zaretsky (1986)

Only considers the nuclear family
Views the family as an economic unit
Post-Modernists would criticise it as it does not reflect changes in society
Evidence suggests that there were nuclear families long before inheritance of property



Engels 1820 – 1895)

A03 Evaluation

The family provides 'a cushion' from the effects of 'Alienating Work'.

The family allows the worker to relax, refresh and unwind after a days work. This means that the worker can then feel revitalised for work the next day.

Families separate & fragment individuals from the rest of community – this dampens revolutionary potential.
(Divide & Conquer)

A03 Analysis

Engels argues that the Nuclear Family developed as a response to industrialisation and the growing trend to 'Own' Private Property. The Nuclear Family was set up so that capital (wealth) could legally be passed on to 'Heirs' (Children) – Money could stay within the Family. Monogamous Relationships were favoured so that men could be sure that their children really were their biological children. Monogamous Marriage ensured that women would be economically dependant on their male partners & as such would not stray & mother children by other men. Women become 'Glorified Prostitutes' – producers of heirs in exchange for economic security.