

8 Great ways...

Changes to family structure

Changes to divorce laws have meant changes in the structure of the family – more single parent and reconstituted families
Same Sex Marriage and IVF/Adoption have led to more same sex couples

Changes to Gender Roles

Equal Pay Act and Sex Discrimination act have given women more aspirations for careers this leads to more symmetrical households
Shared Paternity Leave means fathers can take more time with children

Reinforced roles of women

Traditionally child benefit paid to women which reinforced their position as care-givers (Feminist critique)

Relationships

The ease of divorce has meant that people want to be more certain before getting married and therefore are more likely to cohabit before getting married – this leads to roles within the relationship becoming negotiated, knowing that if rules are broken the relationship can be terminated



Less Stigma

Legislation such as the decriminalisation of homosexuality and the Equality and diversity Act 2010 have reduced the stigma on same sex couples and promoted greater acceptance in wider society – this has led to more same sex couples and more fictive families constructed of friends/former lovers

Creation of Welfare State

People are living longer (NHS) and so more beanpole families, grandparents more involved with looking after children
Single parent benefits reduces the need for women to stay with abusive partners

Changes to Birth Rate

Legalisation of abortion and availability of contraceptives on prescription reduced birth rate
Compulsory Schooling led to children being an economic burden rather than economic asset

Reinforcing the Nuclear Family

Policies such as married persons tax allowance and paying universal credit to one person have reinforced the breadwinner role in NF

social policy has impacted on the family