Women working has changed family life

**Greater involvement of males in the home and with children**
Working mothers are being increasingly supported by fathers. Males are doing more at home and are more involved with children. This could be argued to be a process of the ‘new man’ which sees fathers put greater status on being a dad than their job.

**Changes in types of families**
As women have more financial independence than before this has led to an increase in the number of women petitioning for divorce. 2/3 of divorces are requested by women, which changes family patterns.

**More negotiated families**
Women delaying marriage and being financially independent means relationships become more symmetrical as they are negotiated between partners.

**Delivering Marriage**
Greater career aspirations for women have meant the average age for marriage has risen from early 20s to late 20s. This is due to women prioritising careers over marriage (Sharpe – Just Like a Girl).

**Greater involvement of Grandparents**
Grandparents are becoming more involved in providing childcare for working families – partly because we are living longer and partly due to cost of childcare.

**Reduction in Birth and Fertility Rates**
As women are choosing to have a career or wait until later in life to have children/relationship the fertility window narrows and we have older parents with fewer children in society.

**Rise of Dual Earner Families**
As a consequence of both parents working the family is able to afford to spend their disposable income more readily. This increases the standard of living of working families. However it is estimated that around 60% of working families are close to the poverty line. Moreover, some women end up with a dual burden or triple shift as labour is not equally shared.

**Children’s Experience**
Children are more likely to be placed in day-care or care of relatives due to working parents. This impacts on their social development.