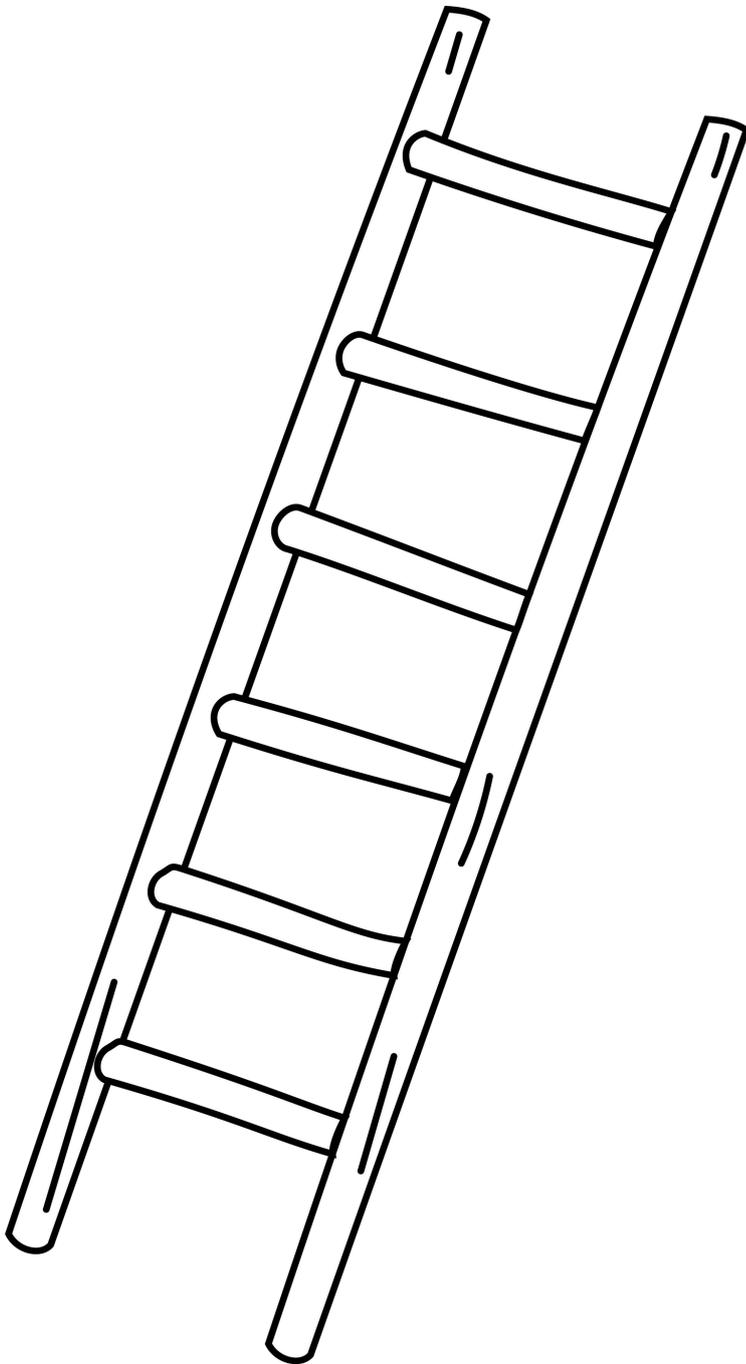


The Intergenerational Ladder

You will be given one of five multi-generational family stories. Your task is to place each generation of the family onto the social mobility ladder below.



For each generation, consider the following before you place them on the ladder: occupation, income, education, housing, migration, cultural capital, social networks, inheritance or wealth.

The higher a generation is placed represents higher levels of stratification.



The Intergenerational Ladder

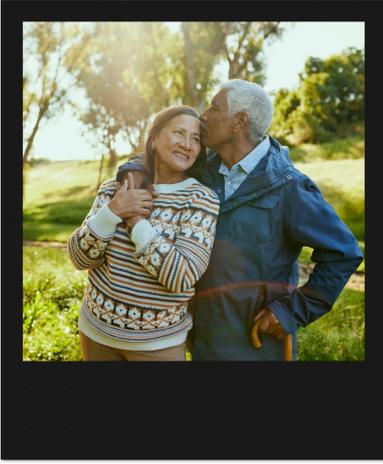
Below are some simplified definition of social mobility to help you to describe what is happening to each of the families that you place on the intergenerational ladder.

Term	Definition
Social Mobility	Movement of individuals or families between social class positions over time.
Intergenerational Mobility	Movement between generations—for example, differences between a parent's class and their child's class.
Intragenerational Mobility	Movement within an individual's lifetime (e.g., from apprentice to manager).
Upward Mobility	Movement to a higher class position.
Downward Mobility	Movement to a lower class position.
Limited or Zero Mobility	When a family remains in the same class position across generations.
Structural Mobility	Mobility caused by societal changes (e.g., deindustrialisation).
Exchange Mobility	Mobility where some move up and others move down, keeping overall structure balanced.

You can use these key terms to explain patterns of mobility (or lack of) in the family profile you have been given.

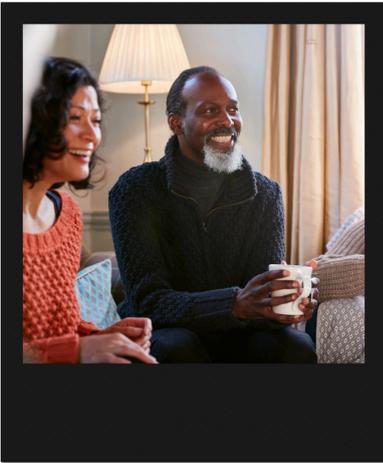


Case Study A: The Okoro Family



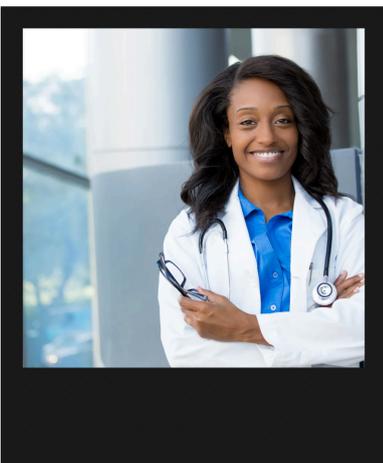
Generation 1: The Grandparents – Chinyere & Ikechukwu (1970s–1990s)

- Migrated from Nigeria to the UK in the early 1970s due to political instability.
- Worked long hours in low-paid service jobs, e.g., cleaning, hotel work, factory shifts.
- Faced racial discrimination and limited job opportunities despite strong work ethic.
- Lived in overcrowded private rental accommodation.
- Strong emphasis on community, church networks and saving for their children's future.



Generation 2: The Parents – Adaeze & Kelechi (1990s–2010s)

- Adaeze completed an access-to-HE course and trained as a nurse (NHS Band 6).
- Kelechi worked as a bus driver with good union protection and steady income.
- Bought a modest terraced house using shared ownership; stable neighbourhood, good schools.
- Encouraged their children academically and enrolled them in weekend science clubs.
- Middle-range income but high educational aspiration.

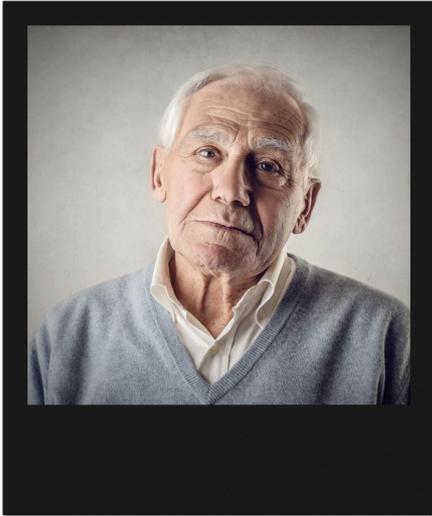


Generation 3: The Young Adult – Nneka (Present)

- Achieved A levels and a Master's degree in physiotherapy.
- Now works as an NHS physiotherapist and is considering private practice.
- Higher income and autonomy compared to previous generations.
- Aspires to progress into a clinical specialist or managerial role.
- Benefits from both cultural capital (education) and social capital (professional networks).

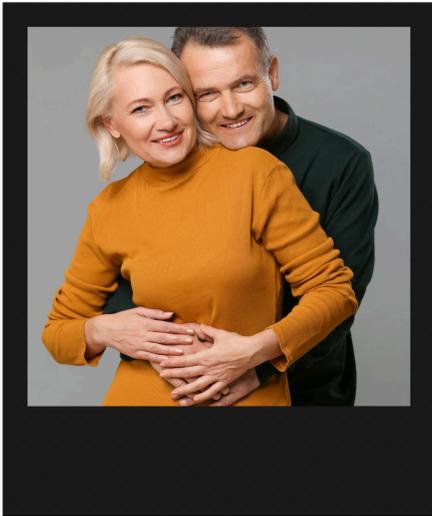


Case Study B: The Thompson Family



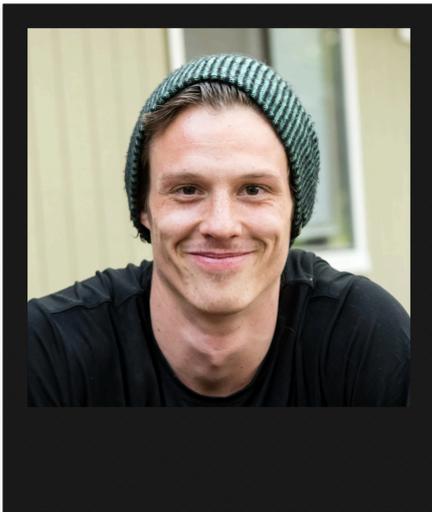
Generation 1: The Grandfather – Edward Thompson (1950s–1980s)

- Highly skilled manual worker in a steel plant in South Yorkshire.
- Earned good wages, had a strong pension, and was a union member.
- Stable income allowed purchase of a semi-detached home.
- Left school at 15 but had high status within his community.
- Represented the post-war working-class “affluent worker”.



Generation 2: The Parents – Karen & Paul (1990s–2010s)

- Paul continued in the steel plant until it closed in the 1990s due to deindustrialisation.
- Lost job security and took a series of lower-paid warehouse and delivery roles.
- Karen worked part-time in retail to supplement income.
- Family sold their home and moved into rented accommodation after financial struggles.
- Social capital weakened as local community networks declined with the loss of industry.

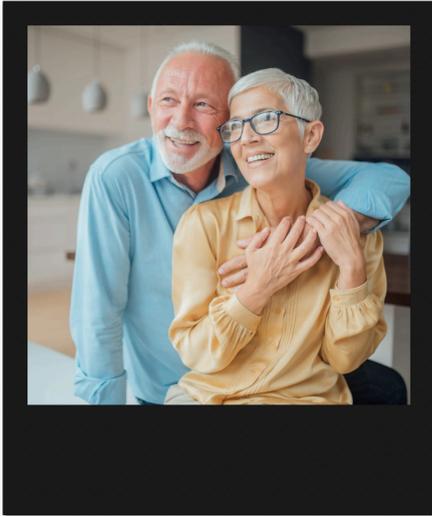


Generation 3: The Young Adult – Luke (Present)

- Completed GCSEs but left formal education early due to lack of motivation and few local opportunities.
- Works in gig-economy delivery jobs with no guaranteed hours or benefits.
- Lives with friends in rented shared housing; insecure tenancy conditions.
- Expresses feeling “trapped” and sees few paths to stable employment.
- Experiences income insecurity and limited social mobility prospects.

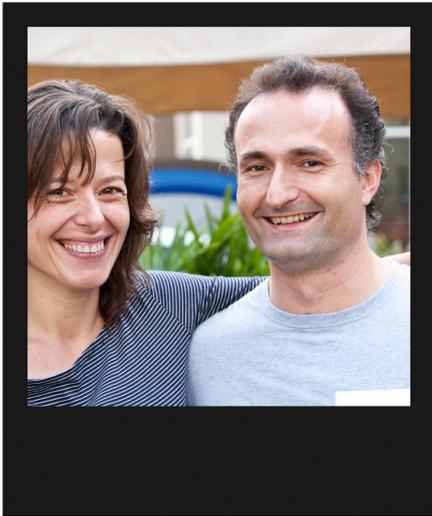


Case Study C: The Garcia Family



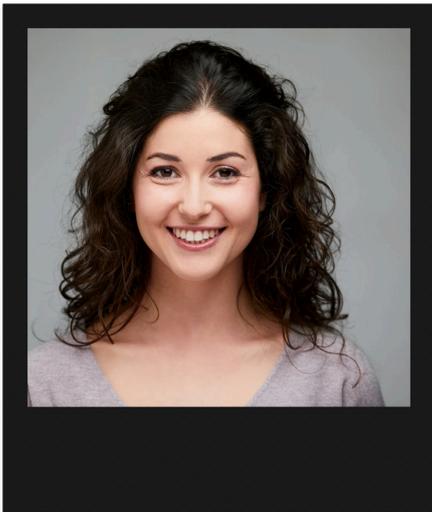
Generation 1: The Grandparents – Miguel & Rosa (1970s–1990s)

- Arrived in the UK from Spain in the mid-1970s for work opportunities.
- Miguel worked as a chef; Rosa worked in a hotel.
- Initially lived in council housing before renting a small flat.
- Valued education highly and saved regularly despite modest incomes.
- Built strong ties within their local Spanish community.



Generation 2: The Parents – Carlos & Elena (1990s–2010s)

- Both first-generation university graduates.
- Carlos trained as a secondary school teacher; Elena became an HR manager.
- Purchased a three-bedroom home in a suburban neighbourhood with good schools.
- Provided children with access to music lessons, foreign travel and clubs.
- Built professional networks through parent associations and workplace ties.

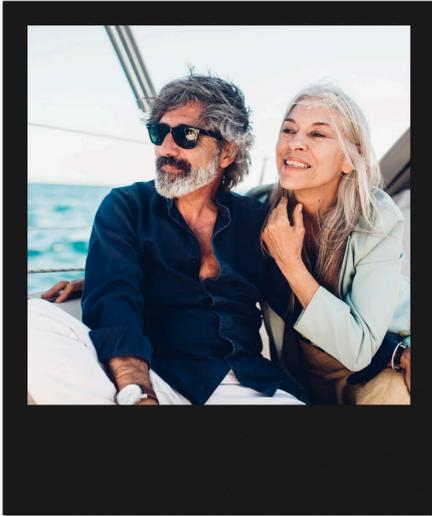


Generation 3: The Young Adult – Sofia (Present)

- Attends a Russell Group university studying law.
- Participates in debating societies, language exchange programmes and student networking events.
- Has secured internships through her parents' contacts.
- Aims for a high-status legal profession, likely corporate law or barrister training.

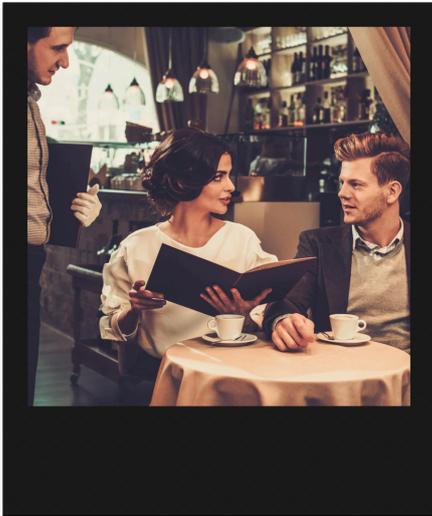


Case Study D: The Harrington Family



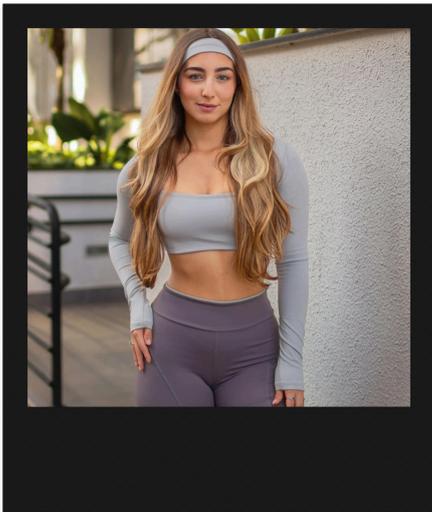
Generation 1: The Grandparents – Sir Richard & Lady Eleanor Harrington (1950s–1990s)

- Sir Richard inherited a large country estate and a substantial investment portfolio from his father.
- Educated at a prestigious public school and then Oxford.
- Served as a senior barrister; income supplemented by property rents and investments.
- Eleanor ran charitable events and sat on several arts boards.
- Children educated privately, exposed to elite social and cultural capital from birth.



Generation 2: The Parents – Thomas & Charlotte Harrington (1990s–2010s)

- Both attended top-tier private schools followed by Russell Group universities.
- Thomas works in finance managing part of the family investment trust.
- Charlotte runs a small interior design business but receives substantial family support.
- Inherited wealth used to purchase a second home; no mortgage required.
- Social networks include MPs, lawyers, business owners and cultural elites.

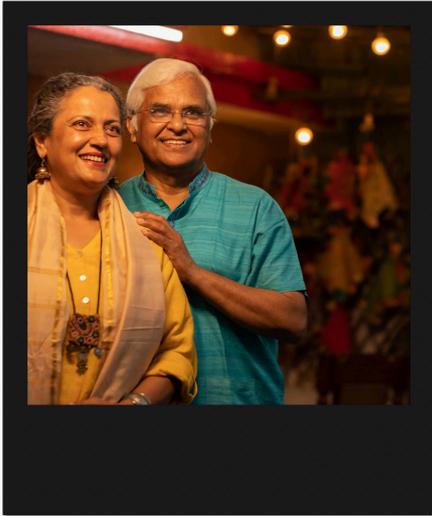


Generation 3: The Young Adult – Beatrice (Present)

- Studying Art History at a highly selective university.
- Already owns shares in the family investment trust; trust fund arranged for age 25.
- Secured internships through family connections (auction houses, galleries).
- Unlikely to experience downward mobility due to wealth insulation, even if career earnings fluctuate.
- Strong sense of entitlement, confidence and cultural fluency that reinforces privilege.

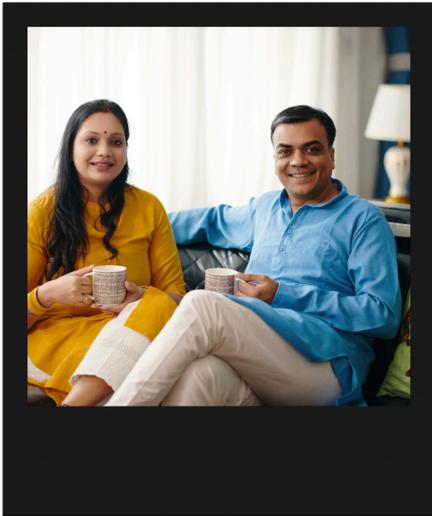


Case Study E: The Patel Family



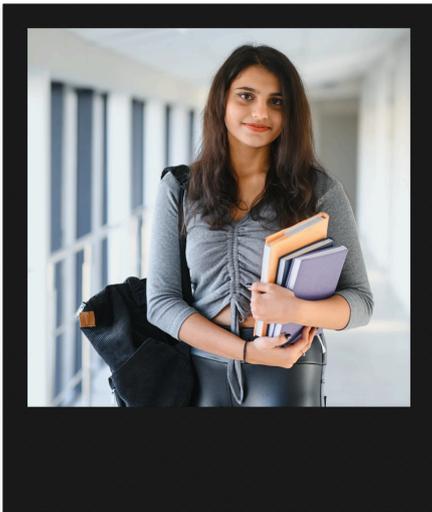
Generation 1: The Grandparents – Ravi & Sunita Patel (1980s–2000s)

- Migrated from India in the early 1980s seeking economic stability.
- Worked in low-paid textile and catering jobs.
- Rented a small flat and took on multiple part-time jobs to support their children.
- Invested in their local community and prioritised educational success for their family.



Generation 2: The Parents – Meera & Jay Patel (2000s–2020s)

- Both attended local comprehensive schools.
- Meera received a scholarship to study computer science at university.
- Jay completed a business degree and later opened a small electronics repair shop.
- The couple eventually bought a semi-detached house as their income stabilised.
- Encouraged their children's interests in STEM subjects, coding clubs and robotics.



Generation 3: The Young Adult – Aanya (Present)

- Won a national coding competition at age 16.
- Developed a mobile app that gained significant users; secured venture capital funding at university.
- Now runs a successful tech start-up focusing on educational software.
- Income is far higher than previous generations; has built a wide professional network.
- Continues to reinvest in education and tech innovation.

