

## Key Ideas

## Family and Wider Society

Knowledge in this area can be related to: Family diversity (fit thesis, family structures, etc.). E.g. Relations with wider kin (extended family, old age, etc.).

### • Family Functions:

- ✓ Economic (e.g. consumption / production? / "survival")
  - ✓ Political (e.g. socialisation, social control, identity).
  - ✓ Cultural (e.g. reproduction, sex, education, health, religion)
  - ✓ Psychological (e.g. love, trust, affection, stability - "emotional support functions" (Dennis, Willmott and Young),
- "Dark Side":
- Child / adult abuse, domestic violence, economic exploitation (unpaid domestic labour), Scapegoating (Bell and Vogel), emotional blackmail
  - Loss of functions in modern society? = "Evidence of decline" or "Increasing specialisation and focus"?
  - ✓ Health / Welfare (professional medicine / social workers)
  - ✓ Education (professional teachers)
  - ✓ Economic production

[www.sociology.org.uk](http://www.sociology.org.uk)

Families and Households

## Key Ideas

## Family and Wider Society

### Relationship with State (Social Policy)

- Define social policy (e.g. Calvert and Calvert).

Relationship between policy and Ideology:

- Private domain (Civil Society) / Public domain (The State)
- In UK, State = non-directive:
- Hegemonic role of State ("management, not direct involvement).
- Main roles:
  - ✓ Regulation (e.g. marriage, divorce norms)
  - ✓ Welfare safety net (e.g. family breakdown).
- Relative Autonomy of family members. State expresses certain values about family life (e.g. primary socialisation), but families free to fulfil them in wide variety of ways).

Ideological questions to consider:

- What the family is,
- What the family group should be,
- What the family does,
- What the family should do,
- How to support the family

[www.sociology.org.uk](http://www.sociology.org.uk)

Families and Households

## Key Ideas

## Family and Wider Society

### Post 2nd World War (UK): Two perspectives:

- Social Democratic model ("Post-war consensus")
- ✓ Welfare State (Beveridge: NHS, Pensions, Council Housing, Education)
- ✓ Central planning and funding
- ✓ "Free services" (funded through general taxation)
- ✓ Elimination of poverty, disease, etc.
- Market Liberal (e.g. Marsland, Thatcher - "New Right")
- ✓ State disengagement
- ✓ Personal insurance
- ✓ Elimination of "culture of dependency"

Selected areas of government policy that affect the family:

- Public Health and Housing / Health and Social Welfare
- Employment legislation (including Health and Safety regulations).
- Marriage and Divorce.
- Education / Unemployment and Training
- Taxation
- Crime.
- Leisure (public holidays)

[www.sociology.org.uk](http://www.sociology.org.uk)

Families and Households

## Key Ideas

[www.sociology.org.uk](http://www.sociology.org.uk)

Families and Households