

# GCSE SOCIOLOGY – FAMILIES KEY STUDIES

NAME(S)	PERSPECTIVE	RESEARCH METHOD	KEY FINDINGS	
1	<b>Parsons</b>	Functionalist	Work of other sociologists	Two key functions of the family: 1. Primary socialisation – children are taught the shared norms and values of society 2. Stabilisation of adult personality – family relieves stress of life, like a 'warm bath'
2	<b>Zaretsky</b>	Marxist	Work of other sociologists	The family serves capitalism through: 1. Women's unpaid labour 2. Passing on of advantage in families eg inheritance 3. Unit of consumption 4. Safe haven – destresser from capitalism
3	<b>Delphy and Leonard</b>	Radical feminist	Work of other sociologists	Family is patriarchal because: 1. Women are exploited economically – labour is used by their husbands 2. Family is hierarchical – men at the top 3. Patriarchal family reflects patriarchal society
4	<b>Oakley</b>	Feminist	Work of other sociologists	Analyses the 'conventional family' finding: 1. Women are expected to do unpaid work 2. IDEA of the conventional family is powerful 3. People expect happiness, but nuclear family can be stressful 4. Middle class – more family diversity
5	<b>Rapoport and Rapoport</b>	NA	Work of other sociologists	Pioneers in researching family diversity. 5 types: 1. Organisational – structure of families 2. Cultural – cultural/ religious differences 3. Social class – class differences 4. Cohort – historical differences 5. Life course – differences in life cycle of the family
6	<b>Willmott and Young</b>	Functionalist	Survey; Face- to- face structures interviews	Found the family was becoming more symmetrical – similar but not identical roles, equal contribution to household work, and shared decision making and friends. Home-centred. Principle of stratified diffusion: changes in family life start with higher social classes and trickle down. Moved from extended families to nuclear to symmetrical.