

Key features of Functionalist theory		
1	Structural	individuals less important than social structure.
2	Consensus	Functionalists believe society is based on value consensus. Society socialises it's members into a set of shared norms and values.
3	Cooperation	This aids cooperation so we are able to meet the needs of society and achieve a set of shared goals.
4	The organic analogy: PARSONS	a) Functionalists claim society is a system made up of sub-systems that are dependent on one another. Eg the family, the economy and education. Like a human body. b) The organs of the body perform functions for the wellbeing of of the body as a whole. c) Similarly, society's subsystems will perform functions for the good of society as a whole. d) egThe family is an important sub-system- a basic building block of society.

George Peter Murdock		
1	Key idea	The family provides four essential functions to meet the needs of society and its members. The nuclear family meets these four needs and so it <u>is universal</u> – found in all human societies without exception.
2	Function 1	Stable satisfaction of the sex drive- prevents social disruption as a result of promiscuity.
3	Function 2	Reproduction of the next generation-without which society could not continue!
4	Function 3	Socialisation of the young- the teaching of shared norms and values
5	Function 4	Economic function- meeting economic needs such as food and shelter.

Evaluation of Murdock		
1	Weakness	Many of the functions could be easily performed by other institutions or non-nuclear structures
2	Weakness	Marxists and feminists reject Murdock's 'rose-tinted' view – they claim functionalism neglects conflict/exploitation in the family
3	Weakness	Feminists argue the family serves the needs of men and oppresses women
4	Weakness	Marxists argue it meets the needs of capitalism, not those of family members or society as a whole

Parsons: functional fit theory			
1	Key idea	The functions performed by the family will depend on the type of society in which it is found. The functions the family performs will affect its shape /structure. Nuclear family -married heterosexual couple with their own biological children. Extended family eg three generations living in the same household.	
2	Key idea	There are 2 types of society;	
		Pre-industrial –(pre late 18 th C) :	Extended family the best fit.
		Modern industrial –(late 18 th C) :	Nuclear family the best fit
3	Needs of industrial society (1)	A geographically mobile workforce: In pre-industrial society people lived in the same place all of their lives and worked on the same farm. In modern industrial society people need to travel for work. It is easier for the nuclear family to move from place to place than an extended family.	
4	Needs of industrial society (2)	A socially mobile workforce: a) In an extended family in pre-industrial times, adult sons lived in their father's house-their father had a higher status as this was ascribed. b) Modern industrial society relies on a skilled workforce to cope with changes in technology. The best people need to fill the most important jobs-status is achieved. EG.the son of a labourer may become a doctor through their efforts and ability. The best solution is the nuclear family- sons leave home once married.This encourages social mobility. The mobile nuclear family is "structurally isolated" from the extended kin. There are no binding obligations to them as there would have been in pre-Industrial society. The nuclear family is better equipped to meet the needs of modern Industrial society.	
5	Loss of Functions	1) Pre-Industrial Family A unit of production –worked together on the farm A unit of consumption- fed and clothed its members Self-sufficient- provided health and welfare –met most individual and social needs. 2) Modern Industrial Family Family changes its structure and loses its functions. Not a unit of production-work in factories Becomes a unit of consumption only. Loses functions to schools and the health service.	
6	Result of the loss of functions: 2 irreducible functions	1) The primary socialisation of children- teach basic skills and values to enable cooperation with others and to begin the process of integration. 2) The stabilisation of adult personalities: the family is a place where adults can relax and release tensions, enabling them to return to work feeling refreshed –functional for the efficiency of the economy.	

EVALUATION of Parsons		
1	Was the extended family dominant in pre-industrial society?	a) Young and Wilmott (73) Pre-industrial family was nuclear not extended-parents and children worked together in cottage industries. b) Laslett (72) 1564-1821 –English households mostly nuclear. Low life expectancy and late childbearing resulted in a shortage of extended families.
2	Did the family become nuclear in early industrial society?	a) Parsons said that the nuclear family was created alongside industrialisation. b) Young and Wilmott – the hardship of industrial life led to the Mum-centred working class extended family –female kin relied on one another for financial, practical and emotional support. c) Exchange theory- Anderson (80) Mid-19 th C Preston-families did not cut ties with extended kin. The benefits of maintaining contact outweighed the costs eg the absence of a welfare state, poverty, sickness vs support with children and rent.
3	Is the extended family no longer important in modern society?	a) Partial support- Young and Wilmott- From 1900 the nuclear family was the dominant family type. Due to higher living standards, married women working, the welfare state and better housing. b) BUT the extended family continues to exist (more on this later...)

Key features of Marxist theory		
1	Structural	individuals less important than social structure.
2	Conflict	They believe that society is based on conflict between two social class groups –Proletariat and the Bourgeoisie-created by capitalism
3	Role of institutions	Marxists see every institution in society as helping to maintain class inequality and capitalism- they transmit ruling class ideology Eg Media, family, education, religion and the state

Marxist view of the Family		
1	Key idea	The functions of the family are performed for the benefit of the capitalist system.
2	Key idea	This contrasts with the Functionalist view. They believe the family benefits both society and the individual.

The family serves the needs of capitalism: Inheritance of Property:	
1	<p>Inheritance of Property:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The means of production = eg tools, machinery, raw materials, factories, land. b) The mode of production = who owns and controls the means of production. c) The mode of production is the key factor that determines the shape of all social institutions. d) In modern societies the capitalist class owns and controls the means of production. e) As the mode of production evolves, so will the family.
	<p>MARX:PRIMITIVE COMMUNISM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Primitive communism- an early classless society. b) There was no concept of private property. c) Everyone owned the means of production communally. <p>ENGELS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) At this stage there was no family but a “promiscuous horde” or tribe- no restrictions on sexual relationships.
	<p>Private Property</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) As the forces of production developed society’s wealth increased. b) The concept of private property also developed. c) A class of men emerged- they secured control of the means of production. d) This created the patriarchal monogamous family. <p>ENGELS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Monogamy was essential because of the inheritance of private property. Men had to be certain of the paternity of their children to ensure that their legitimate heirs inherited from them. b) The rise of the monogamous nuclear family represented a “world historical defeat of the female sex.” c) It brought woman’s sexuality under male control- turning her into “ a mere instrument for the production of children.” d) Women will only achieve liberation from patriarchal control when capitalism and the private ownership of the means of production are overthrown. e) There will be no private property and so no need for the patriarchal family passing private property down through the generations.

The family serves the needs of capitalism:

2	Ideological functions	<p>Ideology- a set of ideas or beliefs that justifies inequality and maintains the capitalist system by persuading people that this is fair, natural and unchangeable. The family does this by socialising children into the idea that hierarchy and inequality are inevitable. Parental power over children presents the idea that there will always be someone in charge-usually a man. This prepares them for working life- to accept orders from their capitalist employers.</p> <p>ZARETSKY (1976) The family offers a haven from the harsh and exploitative world of capitalism outside. Workers can be themselves and have a private life. This is an illusion though... The family can't meet it's members' needs. It is based on the domestic servitude of women.</p>
3	Unit of consumption	<p>a) Capitalism exploits the labour of the workers, making a profit by selling products of their labour for more than it pays them to produce these commodities. b) The family plays a role in generating profit for capitalists. c) It is an important market for the sale of consumer goods. d) Advertisers encourage families to buy the latest products to "Keep up with the Joneses." e) The media target children- they use pester power to persuade parents to buy things. f) Children who lack the latest clothes or must have gadgets are mocked and stigmatised by their peers.</p>
4	In summary	<p>The family serves the needs of capitalism in 3 ways ; a) Inheritance of property b) Ideological functions c) A unit of consumption These functions may benefit capitalism but they DO NOT benefit the members of a family.</p>

CRITICISM of the MARXIST PERSPECTIVE of the FAMILY

1	Weakness	They assume the nuclear family is the dominant type in a capitalist society- it ignores the structural diversity amongst families today in the UK.
2	Weakness	Marxists emphasise class inequalities in a capitalist system- Feminists feel this ignores the importance of gender inequalities . The family serves the interests of men, not capitalism
3	Weakness	Marxists take a conflict view of the family and suggest that the nuclear family does not work in the interests of the individual- Functionalists take a consensus view and argue that the Marxist approach ignores the benefits a nuclear family provides for it's members. Eg children, emotional security

Key features of Feminist theory		
1	Structural	individuals less important than social structure.
2	Conflict-Similarity with Marxism	Feminists are similar to Marxists in taking a critical/conflict view of the family. However, they believe the source of conflict is patriarchy not capitalism.
3	Different to Functionalism	They are different to Functionalists who take a consensus view of the family.
4	Social construct	General feminist views of the family suggest that gender inequality is a social construct- it is not natural or inevitable.
5	Issues	They focus on issues such as the domestic division of labour and domestic abuse.

Liberal Feminism		
1	March of progress	They hold similar views to “march of progress” theorists such as Wilmott and Young (Functionalists).
2	Gradual change	However, they are different in the way they do not think full equality has been achieved. They think there has been gradual progress.
3	Campaign	campaign against sex discrimination and for equal rights and opportunities for women eg Equal pay.
4	OAKLEY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) gender inequality in the family is a product of discrimination by individuals and those who run institutions rather than being embedded in the social structure- comes from ignorance, prejudice and a mistaken view of the biogenetic differences between men and women. b) the source of gender inequality and discrimination as gender role socialisation c) patriarchal ideology “persuades” girls to adopt traditional roles and restricts opportunities in the top jobs.
5	BRADLEY	It is the acceptable face of Feminism –does not go too far in criticising capitalism and men.

Part of the Family theory unit –see other organisers

Liberal Feminism: Success and Reasons for Change		
1	Success: SOMERVILLE (2000)	Over the past 50 years traditional definitions of femininity and masculinity have been challenged; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Women have more choice about marriage b) Women may choose to work c) Women have more rights to divorce d) There is greater equality within marriage
2	Economic reasons WILKINSON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Recession and globalisation has created changes to the economy. b) The decline of traditional industries and the rise of the service sector has created more opportunities for women to be in the labour market- the feminisation of the workforce. c) Women are now more likely to be financially independent of men.
3	Social reasons WILKINSON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A genderquake has taken place. b) Women now have a radically different view on education, career, family life and childcare compared to their grandparents. c) More girls will go to university and seek economic independence from men.
4	Legal reasons OAKLEY	<p>Changes in the economy and social attitudes have led to political changes that challenge patriarchal values and attitudes at home and in work.</p> <p><u>Equality Act 2010</u> Discrimination against all women is illegal. This strengthened women’s position;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Own wage 2) Better say in decision-making 3) Fair distribution of domestic and childcare tasks <p><u>Other policy changes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maternity rights 2. Pensions 3. Benefit more from divorce reforms 4. Reproductive rights eg contraception and abortion (1962;67)
5	Internal Criticism of change	<p>However as mentioned earlier....</p> <p>They do not feel that the degree of change has gone far enough.</p> <p>There is still a way to go. Eg Domestic abuse.</p> <p>BUT hope that consciousness-raising over time will convince men to eliminate patriarchy.</p> <p>All will benefit more with gender equality.</p>

Evaluation of Liberal Feminist theory of the Family		
1	Strengths	It has been useful in explaining the improved position of women in education, family and work.
2	Weakness	It does not reflect the experiences of all women-only from a white middle class view.
3	Weakness Corsaro (2011)	<p>Critical of gender role socialisation claims.</p> <p>Research on gendered play assumes but does not prove gendered play with evidence. Eg. There is no evidence to suggest that girls who play with dolls go on to become mothers/housewives.</p>

Difference Feminism		
1	Key idea	They are critical of other feminisms because they see women as a single group.
2	Key idea	Women are not a single unified group who are exploited equally.
3	Key idea	Women have a variety of experiences of patriarchy and different goals and interests.
4	Black difference feminists-	Stress the importance of ethnic differences between women. Some women face greater forms of oppression in certain ethnic minority groups. This means that ,for some women, discrimination and prejudice may be more important than patriarchy. Eg Bell Hooks
5	Class differences-	Middle class women may have more cultural capital and may be more economically independent than working class women. They may be in a better position to combat patriarchal controls.
6	Family diversity- Calhoun (2003)	Women may be lone parents or women in same sex relationships ...and so don't face the same patriarchal controls as other women.
Evaluating Difference Feminism		
1	Weakness	However other feminists say... This neglects the fact that women still share many experiences too. They are still more at risk of domestic violence, low pay and sexual assault.

Marxist Feminism		
1	Key idea	Marxist feminists argue that the main cause of women's oppression in the family is capitalism. Women's oppression serves several functions for capitalism.
2	Women reproduce the labour force:	They do this via unpaid labour and socialising the next generation of workers whilst maintaining and servicing the current one. Benston (1972) The nuclear family produces and rears the workforce at little cost to the state. The housework role contributes to the effectiveness of male labour. ONS (2014) Laundry and ironing at home was worth £97.2 billion in 2012. Unpaid childcare was worth £343 billion in 2010. Women are exploited by the ruling class because they are not being paid for their domestic labour- it is not reflected in their husband's wage.
3	Women absorb anger	ANSLEY (1972) Capitalism strips men of dignity, power and control at work. This alienation and crisis of masculinity is absorbed by women in the family- they are "takers of shit." This can result in domestic violence as men exert their control and authority at home
4	Women are a reserve army of cheap labour	Women can be taken on when extra workers are needed and let go when no longer needed. They will then return to their primary role as unpaid domestic labour. They see the oppression of women in the family as linked to the exploitation of the working class. They believe the family must be abolished alongside a socialist revolution.

Evaluating Marxist Feminism		
1	Comparison with other approaches	Unlike Functionalists they suggest that gender roles in the family are not natural but created to suit capitalism. However, like Marxists they see the family as a prop for capitalism-it only benefits capitalism and men.
2	Weaknesses	it ignores the positive experiences that some women have from being a wife and mother in a nuclear family.
3	Weaknesses	It is also outdated- very few families will fit the traditional nuclear family structure today- it ignores diversity and dual-career families.

Radical Feminism		
1	Key idea	all societies are founded on patriarchy.
2	Key idea	this existed well before capitalism.
3	Key idea	reject the Functionalist claim that the family is a cooperative unit-it only benefits men.
4	Men are the enemy: Redfern and Aune (2013)	a) Male violence against women takes many forms eg. FGM, acid throwing, forced marriage, marital rape, honour crime and psychological bullying. b) It is the result of a patriarchal set of ideas transmitted between generations that women are second-class citizens
5	The family and marriage are key institutions in a patriarchal society Delphy and Leonard (92)	Women provide unpaid labour –they are exploited by men. Men exploit their wives despite genuinely loving them. The role of wife is to flatter her husband and provide emotional support for him-this is rarely given in return
6	The solution:	1) Choose separatism-women must live independently of men. Or 2) Political lesbianism- become lesbians as heterosexual relationships involve sleeping with the enemy.(get rid of men "from your beds and your heads") Or- 3) Greer (2000) argues in favour of all-female households or matrifocal families. Or 4) Firestone- use reproductive technologies eg IVF to exclude men from families. This way women will not be dependent upon men for childrearing.

Evaluating Radical Feminism		
1	Weakness	Somerville (2000) a) They are outdated ideas-fail to consider social and economic changes that have improved the situation of young women. b) They have access to more rights on marriage, divorce and childbearing. c) Separatism would not work because of attraction. d) But accepts that full equality has not been achieved.
2	Weakness	It ignores the positive and rewarding aspects of family life that many women enjoy.
3	Weakness	Many men are loving and treat their partners with respect. Also, women do find motherhood rewarding.
4	Weakness	It ignores the diversity in families today- they are not all nuclear and not all nuclear families are the same either.