

Chapter 4 Families and Households

Topic 3 Theories of the family

Answers to QuickCheck Questions on page 197

1. Stable satisfaction of the sex drive; reproduction of the next generation; socialisation of the young into society's shared norms and values; meeting its members' economic needs, such as food and shelter.
2. It socialises children into the idea that hierarchy and inequality are inevitable and offers an illusory 'haven' from the harsh and exploitative world of capitalism outside.
3. Any two of the following:
 - It tends to assume the nuclear family is dominant in capitalist society and ignores the wide variety of other family structures found in society today.
 - It underestimates the importance of gender inequalities within the family.
 - It ignores the benefits that the family provides for its members.
4. Marxist feminists see capitalism as the main cause of women's oppression, whereas radical feminists see men as the main cause.
5. An approach focusing on the meanings that individual family members hold and how these shape their actions and relationships (rather than one that focuses on the supposed functions of the family or the roles its structure imposes on members, for example).
6. Any three of the following: relationships with friends; fictive kin; gay and lesbian chosen families; dead relatives; pets.