

Chapter 4 Families and households

Topic 3 Theories of the family

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Activity: Discussion

The family and wider society

Learning objectives

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Identify key features of perspectives on the family.
- Evaluate perspectives highlighting strengths and limitations of each one.
- Apply perspectives on family to family in the UK today.

- A. Divide into four groups. Each group will have a perspective; functionalist, Marxist, feminist or interactionist.

For your given perspective you need to prepare a 10 minute presentation to show how your explanation of family is the most useful in understanding family in the UK today. Your aim as a group is to persuade others in your class that your perspective is the most useful in understanding family in the UK today.

Here are some points to help you get started, add as many as you can:

1. Read the section relating to your perspective and the other perspectives.
 2. What are the key issues and concepts used by your perspective?
 3. Is their view of family positive or negative?
 4. What examples from your own family/household can you use to highlight key points?
- B. Use your research to take part in a class discussion: 'How does the family fit into wider society?'
- C. As a class you will vote on which perspective is the most useful in understanding family. When making your choice you must only consider the evidence presented during the discussion.
- D. Which perspective did you find most useful? Give your reasons.