

## Chapter 4 Families and households

### Topic 7 Families and social policy

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#### Activity: Webquest

#### Improving family policy

#### Learning objectives

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

- Identify current policies on divorce, childcare, income tax and benefits.
- Analyse the impact of these policies on families in the UK.
- Suggest reforms to the current policies.

- A. Your task is to review social policies and to suggest reforms to these policies. Split into three groups. Each group will carry out research into an area of social policy that affects family life.
- B. Using the links below and other websites, research the following policy areas:
- Divorce
  - Income tax and benefits
  - Childcare

<https://www.gov.uk/divorce/overview> - government site giving information on divorce

<http://www.divorceaid.co.uk/legal/children.htm> - divorce and children

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/incometax/married-allow.htm#1> - Married Couple's Allowance, including civil partnerships

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/families> - government advice on benefits

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/262397/DFE-00214-2011.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/262397/DFE-00214-2011.pdf) - Families in the Foundation Years, evidence pack

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/212671/More\\_Affordable\\_Childcare.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/212671/More_Affordable_Childcare.pdf) - More affordable childcare, policy document

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/improving-the-quality-and-range-of-education-and-childcare-from-birth-to-5-years> - Improving the quality and range of education and childcare from birth to 5 years

- C. For each one:
1. Outline current policy.
  2. What effects might this policy have on individual family members and also on the family as a whole?
  3. Which gender is likely to benefit most from this policy? Give reasons for your answer.
  4. What family type benefits the most from current policy?
  5. What reforms might you make to the policy if you were in government?
- D. Prepare a handout that outlines the current policy for your given area and shows the reforms you would make to this policy.