

# TOPIC 2: Families

## LI: How have family relationships changed?

### Starter

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. What was the name of the policy in China enforced between 1979-2016 to limit family sizes? |  |
| 2. What 'K' is a family alternative that is most common in Israel?                            |  |
| 3. Who typically suffers from the double/triple shift?  |  |
| 4. What is the double/triple shift?   |  |
| 5. What is the symmetrical family?  |  |

# TOPIC 2: Families

## LI: How have family relationships changed?

### Starter

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. What was the name of the policy in China enforced between 1979-2016 to limit family sizes? | One-child policy  |
| 2. What 'K' is a family alternative that is most common in Israel?                            | Kibbutz   |
| 3. Who typically suffers from the double/triple shift?  | Women   |
| 4. What is the double/triple shift?   | When women come home from work and have to do the housework and emotional work. |
| 5. What is the symmetrical family?  | A family with joint conjugal roles.   |

# Learning Intentions

4/5 (All) – Comment on the child-parent relationships within families in the past.

6/7 (Most) – Compare child-parent relationships in contemporary families.

8/9 (Some) – Explain the changing role of the extended family in UK families.

Low

High

What is your initial confidence towards the LIs?

# Introduction

Relationships between parents and their children have changed over time.

Relationships between the family and their wider (extended) family has changed as well.

**But how have they changed?**

# Questions for today:

**Using the next 6 pages, write and answer the following questions:**

- 1) What were parent-child relationships like in the past?
- 2) What are parent-child relationships like now?
- 3) What do we mean by less authoritarian?
- 4) Why have the family become less authoritarian?
- 5) Why do some sociologists think the extended family is becoming less important?
- 6) In modern families, why might the extended family be more important?
- 7) What is the sandwich generation? Why does this mean the extended family is very important?
- 8) What are boomerang children? What does this suggest about children and their parents?

You have 45  
minutes to  
answer these  
questions.

# 1. Parent-child relationships in the past

Many children between 10-14 worked instead of going to school. This was mostly boys and the money was very important for the family. Girls tended to help with unpaid work at home.

Children were particularly obedient for their parents and would not argue back due to fear of punishment.

## 2. Contemporary parent-child relationships

Relationships are becoming less authoritarian. Children are becoming less obedient and are becoming more individual. They are seen as important members of the family and they are listened to and taken seriously.

There is less emphasis on discipline, obedience and parental authority and children have more rights in modern society.

### 3. Why?

Smaller family sizes – more attention.

Laws make your stay in education until 18 – dependent on parents for longer.

Laws to reduce punishment and increase children's rights.

Challenge – could it be argued that some parents are now dependent on their children? Can you think of any examples?

## 4. Extended Family – Geographical Mobility

For a long time, the use of extended family was very common in the 50s. However, in the 70s, the nuclear family quickly separated themselves from the extended family. This could have been due to an increase in geographical mobility.

As a result, families saw each other less often suggesting that the wider extended family was becoming less important.

## 5. Extended Family – Childcare

Some sociologists argue that the extended family are more useful than ever – especially for their role in childcare.

- Grandparents are often used to care for grandchildren.
- Fathers regularly help their adult children with home improvements.
- Adult children care for their elderly parents.
- Grandchildren (who are old enough) help care for grandparents.

**Why would new parents value childcare from grandparents so much?**

## 6. The Sandwich Generation & Boomerang Children

### The Sandwich Generation

Due to the ageing population, many people now have the responsibility of looking after their own children and their frail

Parents, suggesting the extended family is more important than ever.

### Boomerang Children

Young people who leave home (for university or to live with a partner) who then return home to live with their parents. Often children return due to a global financial crisis or because housing isn't affordable, suggesting that children are dependent on their parents for longer than ever.



# Checking Understanding

Identify and explain one way in which relationships between parents and children have changed over the last 100 years. (3 marks)

Identify and explain one factor that may have led to changes in the relationships between parents and children over the last 100 years. (4 marks)

These questions are slightly different. Do not be fooled by them!

# 12-mark question (A4 paper)

Discuss how far sociologists agree that in Britain today the wider family is becoming less important in people's lives. (12 marks)

**Plan and answer this question using some of your new learning from today.**



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### Consolidation

There are two key things to take away from all of this:

- 1) How have parent and child relationships changed?
- 2) Why new parents might rely on extended family? (There is more than one answer!)