

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q1(e)

What are the new forms of family in developed societies? Discuss

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · Sociology GS 1 · 10 marks · Systems of Kinship

Systems of Kinship: Family, household, marriage; Types and forms of family; Lineage and descent; Patriarchy and sexual division of labour; Contemporary trends.

Core demand of the question

- What are the new forms of family in developed societies? Discuss
- Keep the discussion within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Developed societies show plural family forms beyond the lifelong conjugal pair.

Dual-earner, lone-parent, step, same-sex, cohabiting, and transnational types are central.

Goode's thesis was incomplete; Beck describes negotiated biographies.

Class and gendered care still structure the new forms.

Choice and instability must not be confused.

Introduction

Developed societies still have households of kin, but the conjugal, lifelong, two-parent form is no longer the only recognised type. New forms are legal and statistical facts, not only lifestyles.

Body**What is new**

- Dual-earner and dual-career couples, with paid care filling gaps that Ann Oakley made visible as housework.
- Lone-parent families, reconstituted or step-families after divorce, and delayed or child-free partnerships.
- Same-sex marriage and parenting where law has moved.
- Living apart together, cohabitation without marriage, and chosen families of friends.
- Transnational families of migrants who parent by remittance and screen.

Discussion

- William Goode's conjugal family was a halfway type, not the end of history.
- Ulrich Beck and Elisabeth Beck-Gernsheim described the negotiated, individualised biography of love.
- Class still stratifies who can afford these forms. Poor households may look "new" through instability rather than choice.

Continuities

- Gendered care often survives inside the new forms.

Flow diagram

Conjugal lifelong type -> Plural forms

Plural forms -> Dual earner

Plural forms -> Lone parent step

Plural forms -> Same-sex cohabit LAT

Plural forms -> Transnational

Conclusion

New forms in developed societies include dual-earner, lone-parent, reconstituted, same-sex, cohabiting, and transnational families. They pluralise the household. They do not abolish care inequality or class.

Facts & figures

Goode

Predicted a world shift to the conjugal family; later diversity exceeded that type.

Oakley

Unpaid housework remains a core family process inside new forms.

Beck-Gernsheim

Individualisation of love and the negotiated family biography.

LAT

Living apart together: partnership without a shared household.