**Open Book Assessment: Families and Households**

You should spend one hour answering these questions.

1. Outline and explain two ways in which functionalist and Marxist perspectives on the role of the family are similar (10).
2. Outline and explain two theoretical problems that sociologists might have when researching the nature of childhood today (10).
3. **Item B: According to feminist sociologists, the main function of laws and policies on families and households is to support the conventional heterosexual nuclear family and reproduce patriarchy. For example, policies concerning the care of children or the old often make the assumption that these are women’s responsibility. Even policies seemingly designed to benefit women such as paying child benefits to the mother, may have the effect of reinforcing their gender role.**

**By contrast, New Right thinkers argue that many policies offer “perverse incentives” that actually undermine rather than support the conventional family.**

Appling material from Item B and your own knowledge, evaluate the view that the main function of laws and policies on families and households is to reproduce patriarchy (20).