

# STEP UP WORK: A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY



# The Symmetrical Family by Willmott & Young (1973)

Peter Willmott and Michael Young carried out ground-breaking research into family life in the UK over a long period of time.

**YOUR TASK:** Use the internet to conduct some research into the work of Willmott & Young and their findings on 'The Symmetrical Family' to answer the questions below. This can be typed or completed by hand. Please bring your completed work to your first Sociology lesson.

### **METHOD** -

- Where did they conduct their research?
- What research method did they use to collect their data?

#### **FINDINGS -**

- What is a Symmetrical Family?
- What are the roles of the husband and wife in a Symmetrical Family?
- What had the structure of the family changed from, in order to become Symmetrical?
- What reasons did Willmott and Young give for the changes in the structure of the family?

## **EVALUATION -**

- What were Ann Oakley's criticisms of Willmott & Young's work?
- Do you see any other problems with Willmott & Young's theory of a Symmetrical Family today?