Examine the patterns of, and reasons for, domestic violence in society.

Domestic violence is defined by the woman’s aid as a physical, psychological, sexual or financial violence that takes place within an intimate or family-type relationship and forms a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour. It may involve partners, ex-partners, household members or other relatives. The perceptions of domestic violence today is that it is men who abuse women with 99% of cases.

Today in society it is found that the majority of domestic violence cases are women being assaulted by men. Many feminists have found patterns of domestic violence such as Mirrlees-Black found that nearly one in four women has been assaulted by their partner in her life and one in eight repeatedly so, furthermore it is found that 99% of all incidents against women are committed by men. Also Coleman saw a pattern that women were more likely to be susceptible to ‘intimate violence’ such as partner abuse, sexual assaults and stalking. Dobash and Dobash said the reasons for this was by the woman questioning the man’s authority, for example questioning him on why his drunk. They argue the reason is a fight for power and authority. Ansley argues women’s male partners are inevitably frustrated by the exploitation they experience at work and women are the victims of this frustration and their expectation is to absorb the frustration and this is mostly by domestic violence.

Other feminists such as Marxist feminists agree with Ansley and say that domestic abuse is due to capitalism as men have more money and power in work places than women. Furthermore that capitalism has caused domestic violence by the women absorbing the anger at their partners because their husbands are exploited and stressed. Other patterns are children and other family members being abused, especially from lower classes. Wilkinson explains the reasons for this are through inequality and stress. Due to the men being the breadwinners, they have more power and influence over other family members so there is inequality, furthermore not just financial but when it comes to children and the elderly physically they are more helpless to defend themselves. Wilkinson agrees with the Marxist feminists and sees that within lower classes there is more stress, this is because of overcrowding in the house so family members are forced together when they may want their own space, furthermore that the man’s stress increases as they are not financially stable and worry more about housing, jobs and money; the lack of money restricts social circles and support for the man that is under stress, whereas in middle class families the male does not worry so much as he is financially stable, and usually within middle class families there is more equality which gives them more chances of maintaining caring and stable relationships. This stress then builds up and turns into conflict by the man as he carries the stress the most, the conflict is usually on anyone within the household with the least power such as children. This approach is useful at explaining the triggers conflict and also why there are more cases of domestic violence with lower class families. But this