Booklet Checked by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Grade: U/S 1 2 3

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Godalming College**

**Sociology Department**

FAMILY TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

****

**WORKBOOK 5 (Paper 2 Family)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name:** | **Set:** | **Group:** |

****

**The AQA Specification:**

* Changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course, including the sociology of personal life, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures.
* Demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900: birth rates, death rates, family size, life expectancy, ageing population, and migration and globalisation.

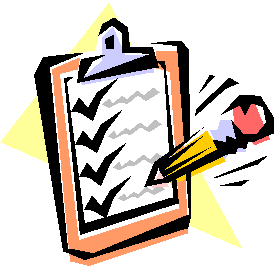
**Symbols**



Requires you to complete an activity, such as a quiz on Godalming Online



Requires you to make notes or complete a written task



Refers to an assessment

**Topics covered in this booklet:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Topic understood (tick)** | **Topic revised (tick)** |
| **Patterns of marriage** |  |  |
| **Patterns of cohabitation** |  |  |
| **Patterns of divorce** |  |  |
| **Patterns of childbearing** |  |  |
| **Patterns of life course** |  |  |
| **Demographics: birth rates** |  |  |
| **Demographics: death rates** |  |  |
| **Demographics: family size** |  |  |
| **Demographics: life expectancy** |  |  |
| **Demographics: ageing population** |  |  |
| **Demographics: migration** |  |  |
| **Impact of globalisation on family** |  |  |

**CHANGING FAMILY PATTERNS OF MARRIAGE, COHABITATION, SEPERATION, DIVORCE, CHILDBEARING AND THE LIFE COURSE**

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

**Outline, explain, analyse and evaluate sociological explanations for:**

**- Changes in patterns in marriage**

**- Changes in patterns in cohabitation**

**- Changing patterns of separation and divorce**

**- Changing patterns of childbearing**

**Explaining changes in the family**

These changes can be broken down into the acronym **LIST**

* **L**egal
* Ideological
* Social
* Technological

**LEGAL CHANGES**

Legal changes refer to changes in law and government policy, also known as **social policy**. There are a number of significant legal changes which have occurred in the last forty years, which have affected the shape and nature of families and households. Under each heading write some information about the different acts.

**Divorce Reform Act (1969/71)**

**The Matrimonial Family Proceedings Act (1984)/ Family Law Act (1996)**

**Equality Act 2010**- which includes gender the equality acts: Equal Pay Act 1970 and Sex Discrimination Act 1975

**Children Act (1984/2004)**

**Child Maintenance Service (2012) (**Replaced Child Support Agency 1993)

**Civil Partnership Act (2004)**

**Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013**

**Abortion Act 1967**

**NHS Policy: Contraceptive Pill 1961**

**Bedroom Tax**

**Retirement age**

**IDEOLOGICAL**

**Ideological changes can be defined as:**

There have been many changes in values toward the households, families and marriage. Thinking about the past forty years brainstorm what you think these may be:

Consider:

* Presentations of family/married relationships in the media.
* In your own family, over the generations, how have views changed towards relationships/marriage?

Changes in values toward the family and marriage

**Ideological changes:**

Materialism/Individualism

Cohabitation as the norm

Changing norms of love, marriage and divorce

Changing attitudes toward single parent families

Secularisation

The influence of the Feminist movement

Increased aspirations of women

The changing life course of the family

Childfree couples

**SOCIAL CHANGES**



**Finance**: Carry out some research into the following examples of financial issues that could affect the family

The **cost of the average wedding** in the UK is now more than £18000 (Daily Mail) or £20000 (The Guardian)

**Cost of childcare**

Financial issues that have affected family trends

**Cost of divorce**

**Average yearly costs for a family Pensions**

**TECHNOLOGICAL FACTORS**

Technological Advances

Technology has become an increasingly important part of our lives, including communications technologies, transport, labour saving technologies around the home, technologies of surveillance, medical technologies, etc.

1. Brainstorm some ways in which technology may have changed the nature of our families and households.

**Silver and Schor**

**Commercialisation of housework**

The influence of technology

1. Using your own research briefly outline how the following medical advances may have influenced the family.

**Contraception**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**IVF**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Abortion**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**What’s the impact (analysis)**

What is the impact of the LIST factors on the following trends? Please note some factors may not fit all explanations

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Trend** | **LEGAL** | **IDEOLOGICAL** | **SOCIAL** | **TECHNOGICAL** |
| Marriage has declined |  |  |  |  |
| Divorce has increased |  |  |  |  |
| More people now cohabitating |  |  |  |  |
| Childbearing (having children) |  |  |  |  |
| Life course (the types of family we live in) |  |  |  |  |
| Increase in lone parent families |  |  |  |  |

**DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE**

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

**Outline and explain the following concepts:**

**- Net migration**

**- Infant mortality rate**

**- Fertility rate**

**- Birth rate**

**- Death rate (mortality rate)**

Define what is meant by the term demographic change:

**Use the resources at the end of the booklet**

**Key concepts**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Birth rate** |  |
| **Fertility rate** |  |
| **Infant mortality rate** |  |
| **Mortality rate (death rate)** |  |
| **Net migration** |  |
| **Life expectancy** |  |

**Add some statistics for these**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Birth rate** |  |
| **Fertility rate** |  |
| **Infant mortality rate** |  |
| **Mortality rate (death rate)** |  |
| **Net migration** |  |
| **Life expectancy** |  |

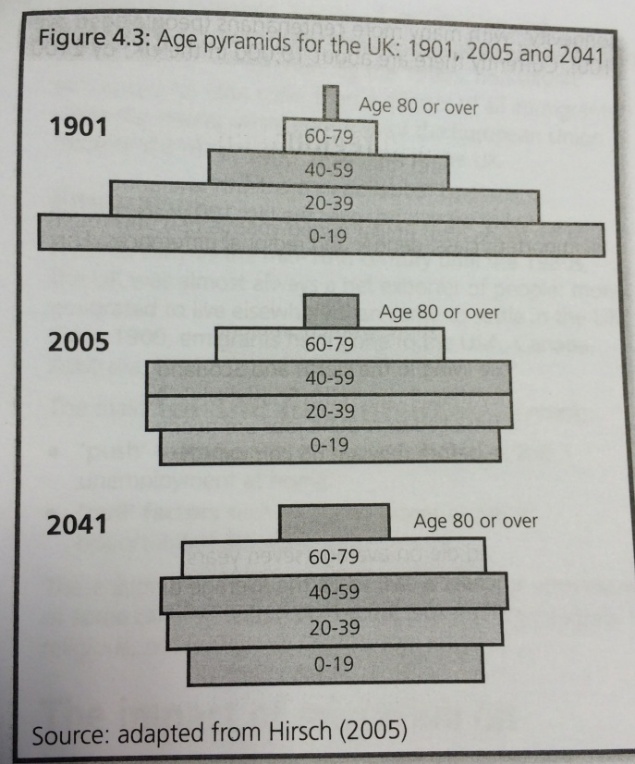
**Now add some reasons for these trends and the impact on the family in terms of structures or relationships**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Reasons for the trends** | **Impact on British family** |
| **Birth rate** |  |  |
| **Infant mortality rate** |  |  |
| **Mortality rate (death rate)** |  |  |
| **Net migration** |  |  |
| **Life expectancy** |  |  |

**The ageing population**

Britain, like most Western Industrialised countries, today have an ageing population, this means that the average age of the population is getting higher, with a greater proportion of the population over retirement age and a smaller proportion of young people e.g. it is projected by 2041 there will be as many 78 year olds as five year olds. The dependency ratio will increase with the rise in the number of retired people and decrease of younger people. In 2015 there were 3.2 people for every pensioner; by 2033 this is expected to have fallen to 2.3. This is not to say all older people will be dependent, but are much more likely to require care and financial assistance (including pensions paid by current working people’s taxes) than working age people.

Other impacts have been the creation of a **Sandwich Generation**. Grundy and Henretta argued that middle aged women now face the pressures of looking after elderly parents and their teenage children or grandchildren.

****

**What does this chart show?**

**What is the impact of an ageing population?** *(Use p.40-41 of the resource at the end of the booklet)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Positive impact** | **Negative impact** |
|  |  |

**Migration and globalisation: Immigration and emigration**

**Globalisation** has had a significant impact on migration patterns in the UK. Britain’s long colonial history means migration has had a significant historical effect on the UK and has turned it into a **multicultural** society.

Migration refers to movement of people from place to place. This could be within a society or internationally.

**Emigration** is when someone moves to another country and this new country becomes their destination of usual residence.

**Immigration** is where someone enters another country and this new country becomes their destination of usual residence.

Migration can occur because of push and pull factors (p.344, Browne).

Pull factors include:

Push factors include:

The impact of migration on the UK population structure

Recent years has seen an increase in both immigration and emigration the consequence of this on the size of the UK population, its age structure and the dependency ratio

**Dependency ratio:**

-Immigrants are more likely to be of working age and this helps to lower the dependency ratio. In addition, many return to their country of origin to retire.

-However, because they are younger many immigrants have more children, therefore increasing the ratio.

-Finally, the longer a group is settled in the country, the close their fertility rate comes the national average, reducing the ratio.

**Age structure:**

-Immigration lowers the average age of the population both directly and indirectly:

Directly- immigrants are generally younger. For examples in 2011, the average age of UK passport holders was 41, whereas that of non UK passport holders living in Britain was 31.

Indirectly- being younger, immigrants are more fertile and thus produce more babies

**Population size:**

-Net migration is high (the difference between immigrants and emigrants). For example there were 260,000 more immigrants than migrants. 47% of immigrants were non EU citizens, 38% were EU citizens, and 14% were returning to the UK.

-There is also a natural increase with births exceeding deaths; however births to non-UK born mothers are higher and account for about 25% of all births.

**Key studies for migration issues**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Issue/ study | Summary |
| Globalisation has led to super diversity: Verotec (2007) | Since the 1990s globalisation has led to what Stephen Verotec calls ‘super diversity’. Migrants now come from a much wider range of countries. This has led to a much wider mix of people and cultures in the UK. |
| 3 types of migrant:  Robin Cohen (2006) | There are a wide range of differences amongst migrants.  **Citizens**: people with full citizenship rights e.g. voting rights and access to benefits. Since the 1970s UK governments have made it harder to acquire these rights.  **Denizens:** privileged foreign nationals welcome by the state e.g. billionaires or highly paid employees of multinational companies.  **Helots:** (literally slaves) are the most exploited group. States or employers regard them as ‘disposable units of labour power’, a reserve army of labour. They are found in unskilled, poorly paid work and include illegally trafficked workers, and those legally tied to particular employers, such as domestic servants. |
| The feminisation of migration:  Ehrenreich & Hochschild (2003) | Today almost ½ of all global migrants are female. This is of a result of the expansion of occupations seen as more typically female, leading to a demand for female labour. Western women have joined the labour force and may need more help at home with domestic tasks. Western men remain unwilling to perform domestic labour. Not enough state childcare provided. |
| Hybrid identities: Hall (1992) | Ethnic identities have become increasingly harder to identity with a merging or hybridisation of identity occurring. This makes it more difficult to identify specific ethnic identities. |

**Ethnic diversity in families – you have these notes from your previous booklet**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Caribbean families- higher rates of single parenthood | Mirza (1997), p.221 Webb |  |
| South Asian families- extended families | Ballard (1982) p.221 Webb |  |

**BRINGING THE DIFFERENT STRANDS OF EVIDENCE TOGETHER: DIVERSITY, TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHICS**

In the table below, outline two ways the social change has had an impact on the family. Try to include studies, or LIST factors to support your reasons

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Social change** | **Outline one way it has caused a change to families** | **Outline a second way it has caused a change to families** |
| **Rise of feminism** |  |  |
| **Expense of children** |  |  |
| **Romantic love** |  |  |
| **Creation of welfare state** |  |  |

Other trends

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Reason 1 | Reason 2 |
| **Couples Living Apart Together (LATS)** |  |  |
| **More people living on their own** |  |  |
| **Young people living with their parents** |  |  |
| **Increase in beanpole families and changes to extended families** |  |  |

**CROSS OVER OF TOPICS – THIS BOOKLET AND THE PREVIOUS ONES – AQA EXAM QUESTIONS TYPICALLY PUT TOGETHER TWO SEPARATE PARTS OF THE COURSE AND ASK YOU TO BRING MATERIAL TOGETHER FROM BOTH**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Changes in parenting |  |  |  |
| Decline in stigma |  |  |  |
| Law Change/ Social Policy |  |  |  |
| Women’s roles changing |  |  |  |
| Secularisation (decline in religion) |  |  |  |
|  | Experience of Childhood | Division of labour | Birth rate |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Changes in parenting |  |  |  |
| Decline in stigma |  |  |  |
| Law Change/ Social Policy |  |  |  |
| Women’s roles changing |  |  |  |
| Secularisation (decline in religion) |  |  |  |
|  | Divorce | Ageing population | Migration |

**50:50 Extension Tasks**

To help reinforce your learning and understanding in A-Level Sociology it is important to go beyond the set homework. Knowledge only stays in our heads if it is regularly reinforced and built upon. These tasks will help you do so. It is up to you what you do as people learn in different ways but it is important that you spend the same time on your work as you do in lessons, so 50:50

**Family Trends and Demographics**

- Read the relevant section in the textbook. Make notes, either as bullet points or to reinforce revision notes. You need to make sure you have notes on all of the demographic issues and family trends that are bullet pointed on the previous page.

Browne, ‘Sociology for AQA Year 1’, p.289-316, 343-357 (take it further and complete the activities in the textbook as you go)

Webb, ‘AQA A Level Sociology Book 1’, 198-233

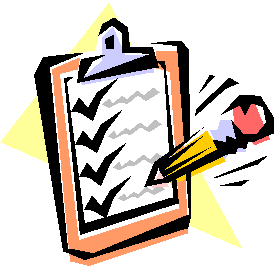
- Create a quizlet or Kahoot for the different theories <https://quizlet.com/en-gb> <https://kahoot.com/>

- Write the key concepts (which can be found in the booklet) as flashcards or as a quizlet.

- Practice additional 10 mark questions.

- Plan and write an additional 20 mark question/s.

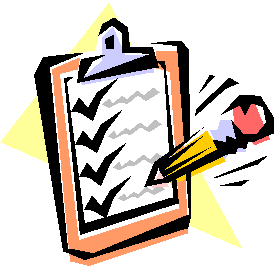
- Read and make notes using relevant revision sites such as <https://revisesociology.com/sociology-family-revise/>

Formative assessment

**Key terms**

All of these words will be covered in the course of this workbook. You should define these key terms in your own words to ensure your understanding. Wherever possible use an example to illustrate the term. These will be needed for 2 mark questions.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **KEY TERM** | **DEFINITION** |
| Divorce rate |  |
| Life course |  |
| Life cycle |  |
| Individualisation |  |
| Confluent love |  |
| Pure relationship |  |
| Secularisation |  |
| Demographics |  |
| Globalisation |  |
| Birth rate |  |
| General fertility rate |  |
| Death rate |  |
| Infant mortality rate |  |
| Life expectancy |  |
| Dependency population/ratio |  |
| Migration |  |
| Immigration |  |
| Emigration |  |
| Net migration |  |
| Natural population change |  |
| Multiculturalism |  |
| Assimilation |  |
| Ideological change |  |
| Social change |  |
| Legal change |  |
| Zombie family |  |
| Hybrid identities |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |



**A LEVEL EXAM PRACTICE**

**AS AND A LEVEL 10 MARK QUESTIONS**

Outline and explain two changes in society which has contributed to the increase in single person households [10 marks]

Outline and explain two ways in which the ageing population may contribute to family diversity [10 marks]

Outline and explain two reasons for changes in the size of families and households in the last 50 years [10 marks]

Outline and explain two ways in which the growth of urbanisation affected household structures [10] *[Garrod revision book]*

Outline and explain two ways in which changes in the law have affected women’s family roles in the past 60 years [10] *[Garrod revision book]*

Outline and explain two ways on which state policies may influence the divorce rate. [10]

Outline and explain two state policies which may influence the death rate. [10]

Outline and explain two state policies that may affect the birth rate. [10]

Outline and explain two state policies that may influence migration patterns.[10]

Outline and explain two ways in which a high level of divorce may affect family structure.[10]

Outline and explain two effects of migration patterns on family structure in the UK. [10]

Outline and explain two effects of an ageing population on family and household structure. [10]

**A LEVEL ONLY**

**Item A**

The average age of people in the UK is rising and there are now fewer young people and more older people. Traditionally, the age demographic would be presented as a pyramid, now it is more of a sequence of age blocks. With fewer people being born and more living longer as a result of better diet, living conditions and so on, the elderly will be dependent on fewer and fewer young people. Tax revenues will also be affected and the structure of the household unit will also change.

**Question**

**Applying material from ltem B, analyse two effects of an ageing population [10].**

Item A: Almost a third of households in the UK, 7 million in total, are now one-person households. However, people living alone do not form a group sharing the same characteristics. For example, there are more women then men in this group, except in the 35-49 age group, and whites are more likely than Asians or British Asians to live alone. *[Garrod revision book]*

Applying material from Item A, analyse two or more reasons for the increase in one-person households [10 marks]

**Item A**

Postmodernists argue that society has entered a new ‘postmodern’ phase. Society is increasingly fragmented and is characterised by diversity of cultural opportunities. People are now able to construct their own identities, taking what is sometimes called a ‘pick and mix’ approach. Social change also occurs in many areas at an unprecedented speed creating unpredictability in people’s lives. New technology especially in terms of media means that new ideas are communicated very quickly and to a global audience.

**Question**

**Applying material from ltem B, analyse two effects of postmodern society on the family.**

**Item A**

Although the usual image of the household is that of a family-based unit, nearly 30% of households are single-person households. Age plays an important role here as do employment patterns. The move to a postmodern society has also affected social values and has seen a greater emphasis on the individual.

**Question**

**Applying material from ltem B, analyse two reasons for the increase in one-person households.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**AS AND A LEVEL 20 MARK ESSAYS**

Item B: There has been a significant increase in the number of divorces since 1970. One important factor behind the increase has been the changes in the law relating to divorce. However, legal changes alone may not be enough to explain the trend and sociologists have suggested a number of possible causes of a higher divorce rate. One of these is a decline in the influence of traditional norms and values about marriage that used to stigmatise divorce.

Applying material from item B and your knowledge, evaluate sociological contributions to our understanding of the trends in divorce in the United Kingdom since 1970. (20 marks)

Item B: In modern society, people’s lives were made up of fixed age-stages, with the final stage being define by compulsory retirement and, for many, poverty. The old also faced prejudice and discrimination. By contrast, some sociologists argue that the position of the old in today’s postmodern society is changing for the better. In postmodern society, individuals can choose a lifestyle and identity that does not depend on their age. This has freed the old from their previous disadvantaged status in society.

Applying material from Item B and your knowledge, evaluate the view that the position of the old in today’s society is changing for the better (20 marks)

Item B: Changes in patterns of marriage have caused concern in many parts of society. The growth in both cohabitation and lone-parent families and the increase in the number of ‘singletons’ are used as evidence that marriage is no longer important. *[Garrod revision book]*

Applying material from Item B and your knowledge, evaluate the view that marriage is no longer an important institution in society (20 marks)

**A Level 10 mark question:**

**Item A**

About 40% of marriages end in divorce. The level of divorce in 2010 was about six times that of the 1961 level. Sociologists have suggested several explanations for this major trend in family relationships. Some have related a high level of divorce to changes to the place of women in society and the economy in general, or to challenges to a traditional view of marriage. It also possible that there is now greater access to divorce than in the past.

**Applying material from Item A, analyse two explanations of increased divorce in the UK.**

**(10 marks)**

*“As Item A says, there have been changes to the traditional view of marriage being a sanctified bond, an ‘until death us do part’ relationship. Some sociologists argue that in today’s society, traditional norms and values such as this are less powerful. This may reflect a change in how people vie the aim of marriage – more as a means of satisfying the needs of the two individuals than for bringing up children or being the cornerstone of society. Individuals have more freedom to follow their own self-interest so if a marital relationship is not meeting the needs of one or both of the partners, then it is easier for it to end. It is almost like people act as consumers when entering a marriage and if it does not meet with approval, then it is acceptable to switch brands. To some extent as well, divorce is no longer stigmatised. The amount of divorce has normalised it. So not only have the bonds and social pressure to stay in marriage weakened, divorce itself has become ‘just one of those things’ in life.*

*A further explanation is that ‘there is now greater access to divorce than in the past’. Put simply, divorce today is legally easier to obtain than it was in 1961. The grounds for divorce changed dramatically in 1969. Whereas before then, a guilty party had to be proven, the law now requires only irretrievable breakdown to be acknowledged. Other changes such as extending legal aid making divorce more accessible to women and reducing the minimum period of marriage before a divorce could take place, have all made divorce easier to obtain. A problem with this explanation is that just because something is legally easier to obtain doesn’t explain why people then take advantage of this situation. However, what may be the case is that legal changes making divorce easier have been part of changing social attitudes reflecting a trend away from seeing marriage as some kind of sacred bond.”*

**Mark 10/10**

**Applying material from Item A and your own knowledge, evaluate the reasons for, and the consequences of, the fall in the death rate since 1900.**

**(20 marks)**

***“****Death rate refers to the number of death per thousand of population in a given year. It allows us to make comparisons between societies and within the same society over time. In Britain the death rate in 1900 was 19 per thousand but by the end of the century it had dropped to 10 per thousand. There are a variety of reasons for this but it is also interesting to study what impact a falling death rate has on society.*

*The most obvious reason for the fall in death rate relates to better medicine. In fact there are two different sides to this; one is the medical advances that have been made the other is the better provision of medical services. These two things combined have meant that we are much more healthy society than in 1900 and that is why we have seen the rapid fall in the death rate.*

*But not everyone thinks this is all down to medicine. McKeown argues that diet plays an even more important role in keeping people healthy and prolonging their life. Because better nutrition helps to strengthen our immune system it means we are able to fight off infections. Also if pregnant mothers have a better diet their children will be born stronger and there will be a reduction in infant mortality rate which will also reduce the death rate. This is why McKeown thinks diet rather than medicine is the key to explaining the fall in death rate.*

*It is also the case that we now have much better housing and sanitation. In the past people lived in slums with no running water or inside toilets and the streets were filthy and full of disease. As houses got better and the streets cleaner this cut down the number of people getting ill and dying from diseases in the home. We also have more health and safety rules and laws today and this helps to protect people.*

*So what are the consequences of all of this? People are living longer and we have more people than ever living to 100 and beyond. But the birth rate is also falling so what we get is what people call an ageing population where the amount of older people is greater than the amount of younger people. This can cause a great deal of expense because older people are more likely to be sick. This means more money is spent on doctors, hospitals and medicine. There are also more old people’s homes.*

*In order to pay for this the government has said people will have to work longer before they get their pension. It also means people have to pay more money in tax to pay for all the things that older people need. As well as this it might also mean we get more extended families as older people move in with their children and grandchildren when they get too old to look after themselves. This can be a good thing because it lets children spend time with their grandparents and gives them another adult to talk to and play with.*

*In conclusion there have been a number of factors which all led to a fall in the death rate. People disagree over which was more important; medicine, diet or housing. What the fall in death rate has produced is an ageing population which has given the government quite a few problems to face as they have to pay for all the things older people need.”*

***Mark 18/20***

**Comments:**

Overall this is clearly a top band answer. All of the skills are demonstrated and there is a sustained focus on the question throughout. There is a good range of both reasons and implications identified although some of these remain underdeveloped. For this reason the answer does not gain full marks. To do so it would need to develop such points as what medical advances were made, how better health care was provided and what other impacts might a fall in death rate have?