

**TRENDS IN THE FAMILY, 10
MARK EXAM QUESTION
EXAMPLES**

A GROUP

Outline and explain two ways families may differ based on ethnic differences (10)

In some cultures the independence of black women is seen as crucial which could contribute to explaining reasons for why there are higher rates of lone parent families in these cultures. Mirza (1997) has identified this and goes on to state that these higher rates of lone parent families are not a result of disorganisation within the family and society that some people may view it as, it's simply just the high value that black women have on independence. Furthermore as a result of unemployment and poverty it means that black men are much less able to be able to provide for their families which has led to more marital breakdowns and desertion. A significant legal issue that arguably could be to blame for forced independence upon mothers and their role in parenting is due to the fact that during slavery couples were sold separately and so children stayed with their mothers whilst their fathers went elsewhere. This could be where the idea of black mothers stereotypically looking after their children comes from and could suggest their independence today.

Another study from Rodger Ballard in 1982 found that extended families proved to be an important source of support particularly among Asian migrants during the 1950s and 1960s. During this time period it was quite usual for houses to be shared by these large extended families, before later on these Asian families actually became mostly nuclear families. However still in today's society the Muslim, Sikh and Hindu societies are still often found to have these extended family links. Immigration during the 1950s has significantly contributed to the ethnic diversity that is currently in Britain today. 14% of the population belonging to an ethnic minority group, of this 14%, 7.5% are either Asian or Asian British, which could be as a result of their large extended families contributing more to the population. In modern society there is a much wider general acceptance of mixed ethnicity families, this is because as a society there is much more acceptance of the idea of 'difference'. As time has progressed this has significantly developed especially away from times that were particularly racist and it was previously a time of white supremacy as the dominant race which saw other ethnicities suffer. This acceptance may have led to the higher proportion of British Asians in society as relationships are able to form between people from different ethnicities and not have it viewed as not normal and negative.

Make clear reason is greater numbers of extended families.

Different point

David

9/10

Outline and explain two reasons for the increase in same sex couples with Children.

From recent researches same – sex couples have increased by 8% from the space of one year in 2013 to 2014. At the start of 2013 there were the total of 13,000 same – sex parents bringing up children, these same – sex parents had the right to do this in 2002 from now by the Adoption and Children Act.

Reasons for this increase in same sex couples looking after children is because people have become more accepting to same sex couples as well as them bringing up children. The LGBT community society has become larger and more supported. By these results, Same-sex couples feel more accepted than before which gives them the confidence and motive to take on children and be themselves now that there is no judgement of themselves by others. Now same-sex couples have more choice they are not confined to being unable to have kids with their partner. This reflects the postmodernists view on couples now having a choice on how they live their lifestyle, regarding adopting children.

Attitudes between the media have become more positive about same-sex couples adopting children, this is one of the reasons there has been an increase in same-sex couples having children. This reason has given same-sex couples the freedom and no judgement towards them when living how they choose. The positive feedback from the media gives same-sex couples the confidence to be themselves by making decisions that were a problem and but is no longer today. Since the Adoption and Children Act allowing same-sex couples to have children on their own the view has changed and is more accepted by others which allows same-sex couples to feel accepted and no longer isolated from society regarding looking after children. It is now a normal thing that is seen regularly on a day to day basis, which explains how society has grown upon getting use to the new rules and accepting the lifestyle of same-sex couples with their own needs of love and nurture.

Euan

Your points are quite similar – they are both about attitudes towards same sex couples.
You could make one point about the legal changes.

6/10.

Outline and explain two reasons for the increase in the divorce rate in the last 40 years. [10]

Make broader: legal
charges - add
is more acts
eg. matrimonial
proceedings
act.

One reason for the increase in the rate of divorce is due to the Divorce reform act (1996/71). Previous to this, one party had to be proven to be at fault for a divorce to be allowed, however the act removed the need. This meant the rate of divorce rose, due to it being easier and more widely acceptable to get a divorce.

Another reason for the rising divorce rate is due to the change in peoples attitudes. Alan and Crow suggest it is easier and more widely accepted, meaning couples are more likely to get divorced as opposed to fighting for marriage, and as Giddens identifies, people are looking for confluent love, and are willing to divorce if they don't find the perfect partner. This change in attitudes towards marriage and divorce has led to an increase in divorce rates. In the last 40 years, laws and attitudes have led to the increase in divorce rate.

2nd paragraph is stronger.

7/10

Outline and explain two reasons for the decrease in family size over the past 30 years

In 1967, the pill started being used widely as a means of birth control / contraception. Previous to this, there was no real way of preventing unwanted pregnancies. Using a condom is not as effective and the introduction of the pill saw a huge downturn in birth rates. The pill was made available for married women only in 1961 and was opened up to all in 1967. The pill's use rose in wake of increased secularisation, as religious people see the use of contraception as a sin. Alan and Crowe saw this as a huge social change as it took part at a time that relationships were being reformed. This social change was toward relationships being more of an institution to seek fulfilment and happiness, rather than carried out as a sense of duty or simply to produce children. Improved birth control meant that couples were more able to have sex before marriage without worrying about pregnancy. The result of this was that a lot less children were conceived by accident, and consequently, a reduction in birth rate and family size. In addition, many partners that were not sexually compatible were given the opportunity to test whether they are or not. As a result, these relationships would not be continued and the couple would not end up having children.

Another reason for the decrease in family size is the cost of childcare. Children in the 19th century were seen as assets rather than liabilities. Children were as much a part of the workforce as adults were, and family's income depended on them. A series of factory and mine working acts were passed throughout the 19th century to fight child labour. In 1870, children started to really become distinguished from adults - this was the point at which the education act was passed. Children today are not allowed to work full time hours until they are past the age of 18 and may not work full time whilst they are in education. Children cost parents in the form of feeding, housing, transport, schooling associated fees etc. and costs mount up to £241,843 by the time the child reaches the age of 21. As a result of this shift toward more expensive children, parents have been choosing to have less children to mitigate costs.

Will (A)

10/10
Excellent.

Outline and explain two reasons for the decline in infant mortality rates (10)

There are many reasons for the decline in infant mortality rates with many being down to the advances in technology. In this essay I'll be exploring two different reasons why these rates have declined.

Don't need an intro.

Firstly, the introduction of the NHS in 1948 has had a large impact on infant mortality rate. This is because people now have access to free healthcare which means ill children can be provided with medicines and emergency treatments. This also means children can get vaccinations which will prevent them from getting dangerous illnesses such as measles and smallpox. Harper argues that the fall in infant mortality rates (IMR) leads to a fall in birth rates which means the NHS may be the reason for the birth rate from falling from 2.5 (pre NHS) to just under 2 in recent years. There has been a decline in birth rate because less children are dying and need 'replacing' so in contrast, if fewer children are dying there will be fewer births.

Another reason for the fall in IMR is the increase in medical knowledge and education on sanitation. People are now more aware of the dangers of poor sanitation and cleanliness is now more globally acted upon. A statistic to show this is that in 1900, the IMR for the UK was 154 which accounts to 15% of births. Now less developed countries have a lower IMR with 117 being the highest (Afghanistan). Flushing toilets and clean drinking water has become a norm globally with many people being informed on how to avoid infectious diseases via media outlets such as newspapers and magazines. From the 1950s onwards, medical knowledge began to play a greater role with vaccines to make children immune from diseases such as whooping cough. Further development into knowledge of antibiotics help fight minor illnesses that could have become fatal without treatment.

Have it

Some sociologists argue that the fall in IMR doesn't relate to the fall in birth rate. For example, Brass and Kabir (1978) argue that the fall in birth rate is due to a 'trend' for smaller family's especially in urban areas where children aren't needed for work on farms like in rural areas.

Add this onto the end of the last paragraph

Emily B (A)

10/10 Excellent!

Outline and explain two types of family diversity in the contemporary UK

Rapoport and Rapoport identified many types of diversity in the family. One of these is cultural diversity. This states that there are many difference within the family based on the ethnicity and culture of said family. For example, within multicultural relationships there can be differences in the way they wish to bring up children. One way this could occur is in two people of separate religions who may argue about how they should raise a child and which religion that the child should follow. Functionalists would argue that if everyone assimilated then this would no longer be an issue as there wouldn't be disputes about religion due to all people following the country's dominant religion. Differing religions is a positive, however, because it allows people to be more knowledgeable about other countries and their customs.

Another major form of diversity is within different classes. There are several differences between the working class and middle class when it comes to how families are prioritised. For example, middle class families are more likely to spend time with their children and help them, or hire a nanny whereas working class parents are far more likely to spend time working. This can lead to a difference in socialisation and even educational achievement in children depending on the class they were brought up in. This shows that the middle class is more likely to emphasise the upbringing of their children in a sociable manner but the working class is more concerned about providing for them economically.

Alex (A)

8/10

Needs support to help to a study
↓
Could lead to cultural deprivation arguments from education

LUCK #AZZANE

Outline and explain two reasons for the growth in single person households in the contemporary UK?

The reason needs to be made clearer e.g. affordability
The growth in single person households has increased, changes in social issues such as separation and divorce has created a rise in one person households, this is mostly the male population under the age of 65. People also live alone longer due to the decline in the number of people marrying and the trend of marrying later in life. It shows that 60% of all one person households are under the age of 65. This suggests that people are able to afford living on their own and is seen as acceptable for younger people to live by themselves.

The second reason is the greatest increase was due to women between the ages 25-34 are opting to have a career prior to settling down and having children, whilst men between 35-44 were currently in ~~de~~ divorce.

Duncan and Phillips show that 1 in 10 adults are living 'apart' but in a significant relationship, but not married or cohabiting.

Key statistics show that by 2033, over 30% of the adult population will be single. (unpartnered and never married)

4/10 - There's good evidence is here but you have not clearly separated into 2 points with a range of evidence.

Lucy R

Outline and explain two ways
migration has had an impact
on families in the UK

(10)

Reason probably
needs to be numbers of
extended families based on
↑ your evidence.

One way migration has had an impact on families in the UK is the rise of arranged marriages. The traditional 'cereal packet' family of a working male married to a home based female is more likely to be found among Pakistani and Bangladeshi than any other ethnic group. Family sizes tend to be larger, with four or more children quite common. Berthoud sees family life in South Asian communities in the UK as based on 'old-fashioned values', in the sense that many of their present family characteristics were once found in the past among white families, but have ~~been~~ rejected. With increased migration of South Asian groups - this has risen the change of births within marriage, respect for parents and arranged marriages.

A second way is the impact on the size of the UK population, age structure and dependency ratio amongst families in the UK. Robin Cohen (2006) states the three types of migrants: citizens, denizens and helots. Migration to UK has led to families becoming from a much wider mix of people and cultures. Needs a bit more explanation.

6/10.

Abi Sheppard

Outline and explain two reasons for the increase in same sex couples with children [10]

There has been a huge increase in the number of same sex couples because of the social stigma which is much less of an issue in today's society. Before 1967 it was illegal for same sex couples to be married, but now however it is estimated that about 5-7% of the adult population today have same sex relationships. This was predicted by Stonewall (2012). Same sex couples may not feel ashamed or embarrassed anymore as the social policy treats all couples more equally, for example since 2002, cohabiting couples have had the same right to adopt as married couples.

It was illegal to be homosexual before this.

2004 civil partnership act.

Another reason why there has been an increase in ^{same sex} couples with children is the technology and treatments which has been invented to their advantage. For example couples can choose to have a surrogate or to have IVF which will help them have the chance to have children of their own. Therefore, with these concepts being more acceptable in today's society, there has been an increase in the number of same sex couples with children.

1st point needs to include discussion of Civil Partnership Act (2004) + Gay marriage (2013).

6/10

Maddie Kilpatrick.

Outline & Explain 2 reasons why women are choosing to have children later?

Couples are deciding to delay having children because of the rising costs of raising a family. Hirschi 2014 estimated each child costs about £154,000 up to the age of 18.

A lot more women are in paid employment so they may not want to leave their job ~~to~~ to have a child. Judith Stacey 1998 argues that greater freedom and choice has benefited women. It has enabled them to free themselves from patriarchal oppression and shape their family arrangements to meet their needs such as having children.

Another reason for women deciding to have children later is that society is now more open to a variety of possibilities in life apart from the traditional family, many women would choose their careers over a family.
Add in Sue Sharpe's study to support this.

6/10.

Sociology - Family

Outline and explain two reasons for the increase in cohabitation in the contemporary UK (10 marks)

One reason that many couples will now live together while not married could be due to more relaxed attitudes towards marriage and relationships. Many see this time to decide whether they would want to get married or not, a study done by Duncan and Phillips showed that one in ten adults are LATs (living apart together) which could show a trend towards less formalized relationships. This could be due to more ideological changes, such as secularisation, (the decline in religious values) meaning that people who are ~~living together~~ ^{living together} aren't viewed as sinful, this shows a contemporary Britain has had a shift in attitude from viewing living together before marriage as a sin to it being fairly common.

Another reason for the increase in cohabitation in contemporary Britain could be down to a shift in attitudes towards relationships in general. For example Giddens argues that people seek 'love' in a marriage rather than 'permanence'. This ~~is due to the fact~~ ^{could be seen through} most married couples today saying that they cohabited prior to their marriage compared to the 2% that did in the 1950's. Many would say that this shift in values of a relationship could be seen through the increased emphasis on personal fulfillment and individualism rather than many feeling as though marriage was a duty, - a study done by Beck and Beale. Overall some would say that this increase in cohabitation in contemporary Britain could be due to this idea that people's views of relationships and why they get involved in relationships have changed dramatically since the 1950's meaning that more live together before marriage.

10/10 Good -

Abby?

Outline and explain why more young people are living with their parents for longer (10 marks)

One of the main reasons for young people staying at home for longer is due to the increase in housing prices. This coincides with young adults remaining in education such as prolonged university courses. The issue being that if they're unable to earn the money of a full-time job, they are unable to pay for housing costs, especially as they have become more expensive. The number of young adults aged 18 to 24 in full-time education is 1.9 million, an increase of 791,000 since 1996.

As well as this, due to high rates of divorce and lone parent families, young people who may have had a break up of a relationship might have no choice but to return home. Also, they might have a good relationship with their parents might not feel a want to move out, especially if they're providing some form of income to assist paying the rent.

2nd paragraph needs more evidence to support - it makes 2 points.

4/10

Needs some statistics on costs

13. Outline and explain two reasons for the decline in birth rate.

To ~~begin~~ ~~with~~, one reason for the ~~birth~~ ~~rate~~ decline in birth rate is because of the increase in contraception. In 1974 family planning clinics were allowed to prescribe single women with the pill. After this, the pill became available at any GP whether you're married or not. In addition, there has been an increase in other contraception such as condoms, the implant, vaginal rings, contraceptive injections and many more which are also very widely available these days.

What does the contraception mean?

In addition, another reason the birth rate has decreased is because less people are having children. Even though ~~some~~ Functionalists will argue the nuclear family is best, in recent years the expectation to have children and to have a 'strong' nuclear family has decreased resulting in couples feeling less pressure to have children. Furthermore, in the 1800/1900s many children would work ~~as~~ as parents needed children for farms etc. Therefore, as we now have education, some couples may not feel the need to have children like they did ~~ages~~ in the past.

2nd point is lacking solid evidence. You could use ~~the~~ Shapell's explanation of a change in expectations of ~~retention~~ women. 6/10.

Practice Question: Jemimah Wylie
Outline and explain two reasons for the growth of couples living apart together. (10)

One reason for the increase in couples living apart together, may be because of locations. If two people had met recently, but had previously been married and had children; they may already have arrangements and ~~agreed~~ commitments to their work and children which could restrict them from moving in with one another. In an article from The Telegraph, it was said that in a recent survey 25% of "LATs" ~~said~~ regarded their relationship as 'subnational', therefore they already had commitments in their own household which made it hard to share a home with another person intimately. Similarly, sociologists Duncan and Phillips found that both choice and constraint play a part in whether couples live together. For example, some said they could not afford to live together.

A second reason for LATs is due to couple individualism. Some couples may believe their

Could link to Beck's study about individual relationship to be enduring; therefore felt safer with separate homes. Single mothers, or young couples may not be ready for a full time commitment. Duncan and Phillips found that about 1 in 10 adults are living apart. Also a majority believe that couples don't need to live together to have a strong relationship.

In conclusion, many LAT's may feel more comfortable by having their own houses and enjoying being their partners on weekends only. However, many couples may need the security of living together and could be opposed into a fully committed relationship. Don't need a conclusion.

8/10

Outline and explain two reasons for the decline in the marriage rate in the UK [10]

Individualism is one reason for the decline in marriage rate in the UK. ~~There~~ There is now increasing individual choice in families and relationships which means more people ~~to~~ choose ~~to~~ when to have children. They are ^{now} more likely (especially women) to put their career first (themselves first) before having children and due to the cost of children, they will usually end up getting married ^{wedding} after having children. Beck and Giddens' individualisation thesis supports this and argues that traditional social structures, class, gender, family have lost their influence over us. In the past, people's lives were defined by fixed roles which prevented people from choosing their own life course but we are now freed from them. Furthermore, cohabitation has now become the norm, it is no longer regarded as 'living in sin'. In 1950, 2% of married couples had cohabited prior to marriage, however, today it is most couples. Overall, due to a rise in individualisation and the change of social attitudes towards family and cohabitation, more people are getting married later in life or choosing not to marry at all which results in the decline of marriage rates.

Love and personal commitment is another reason for the decline in marriage rate in the UK. Sociologists Alan and Grew support this idea and argue due to rise in love, personal and commitment now being seen as the base of the relationship, the absence of those

Feelings is itself satisfaction for ending the relationship. This shows that people are less likely to get married if they are not happy in the relationship. Furthermore, this is also due to the Divorce Reform Act in 1969/71. Before the Act they needed to be proof that one partner was the guilty party and had committed one of the matrimonial offences. The act removed this and made a breakdown grounds for divorce. This meant that it was now easier to get a divorce, resulting in the decline of marriage rate in the UK.

Doesn't explain

why people don't marry
in the 1st place.

Overall, due to individualism and an increased focus on love instead of fixed relationships, less people are going to rush into marriage. This is because they will put their career first and are more likely to leave a relationship if they are not in love. Furthermore, couples are also more likely to cohabit (as it is now seen as the norm) and have kids before they get married, therefore, resulting in the decline of marriage rates in the UK. Don't need a conclusion.

2nd reason is quite similar. You could also raise the issue of cost of weddings.

7/10.

07/03/17 WtHr.

'Outline and explain two ways in which an ageing population affects family life' (10 marks)

One way in which the ageing population affects the family is they can help ~~out~~ their children if they have them. They can provide financial and emotional assistance to family members as well as offering their time. Legal and Generals study in 2013 found that grandparents helped working parents with various household and childcare tasks for free. These working parents might not be able to afford childcare and so this will help them out and bring the family reflecting the extended family which was previously be broken down.

Another reason why the ageing population affects the family is the increase in the dependency ratio which could mean lower standards of living and help offered for ~~the~~ ^{people of} working age. As there are less people of working age they will have to contribute more to sustain the dependent e.g. have higher ~~ages~~ taxes which will therefore have a negative effect on the working peoples living conditions. The Health and Safety Social care information center did a survey in 2014 and found that 60% of the one billion drugs prescribed in 2013 went to people aged 65 or over. If the living conditions are worse for those who are working, it could push them to work more in order to improve their living conditions. This could mean that their children will then spend less time with

their parents which could lead to the break
down of the family.

10/10 excellent.