

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

**D1 GROUP**

6) Outline and explain two reasons for the increase in lone parent families in the contemporary UK. (10 marks)

Divorce Reform  
Act  
Matrimonial  
Proceedings  
act

One reason for the increase in lone parent families is the rising divorce rate, 50% of marriages today will end in divorce meaning many children end up living with only one parent, or moving between single parents. One cause of this could be changes to divorce laws, meaning that there no longer has to be a "guilty party" in a divorce, instead "irretrievable breakdown" is grounds for divorce, furthermore, the time you need to be married to get a divorce was shortened from 3 years to 1 year. Functionalists argue that the rise in divorce rate is due to couples having unachievable expectations for marriage. On the other hand Alan and Crow say it is easier and more acceptable now to get a divorce, meaning couples are more likely to divorce than to go to marriage counselling or find other ways to improve their relationship.

Another reason for the increase in lone parent families is the idea that women are single by choice, they may not want to live with a partner and may even choose to limit fathers' involvement with children. Jean Renvoize (1985) found professional women are able to support their children alone. Furthermore, some couples may choose to live apart, possibly for work related reasons, ~~and~~ where one may raise children and the other works to support them. Women who may have before given up their children for adoption - rather than face the shame of being a single mother, are now choosing to raise their children alone, with external support.

- Be specific about the names of legal acts.

9/10.

Outline and explain two types of family diversity in the contemporary UK (10 marks)

The Rapoport's offer a Postmodern approach and argue that only a minority of families represent the 'traditional' nuclear family as suggested by functionalists such as Parsons. They argue that family life in the UK is diverse due to the diverse range of family set ups.

Make this point differences in organisation

They argue that there are different structures and different ways roles are divided in the household. For example some couples have joint roles and both work, however some have separate conjugal roles and only one is working. Their study in the 1980's also revealed that  $\frac{1}{4}$  of children live in a single parent family whereas  $\frac{3}{4}$  live in a couple headed family. This shows that although there is some diversity in family types, the nuclear family is still dominant as suggested by Parsons.

This is just from official statistics

Cultural diversity is another way the family is diverse. The Rapoport's found that the nature of the family and relationship can vary between different ethnic and cultural groups. For example Ballard found that south east Asian families tend to be more extended whereas households in the UK tend to be more beanpole. This is showing diversity through different structures of the family.

Need to more clearly state the type of diversity in paragraph one.

7/10.

Outline and explain two ways families may differ based on ethnic differences.

Changes in social issues have contributed to the differences in families based upon ethnicity. It is argued that male unemployment and poverty has led to black men being less able to provide for their families. This has therefore resulted in higher rates of desertion within relationships and marital breakdown, consequently creating more lone-parent families. In the early period of migration (1950's and 1960's), often houses were shared by extended families. Roger Ballard (1982) found that extended family ties provided an important source of support among Asian migrants. However, in later years most Asian households were nuclear rather than extended; relatives often lived nearby and immigrants assimilating into western cultures. Immigration into Britain since the 1950's has helped to create greater ethnic diversity.

Changes in values have had an impact on the ethnic differences within family types. Hall (1992) focuses on hybrid identities. Ethnic identities have become more increasingly harder to identify with a merging or hybridisation of identity occurring. This makes it more difficult to identify specific ethnic identities which means that there would no longer be identical families. There is also more of an acceptability of mixed ethnicity which means there would now be an increase in mixed race couples. One large change is the changes in family types within ethnic families for example from extended families to nuclear families due to immigrants assimilating into western cultures.

*Perhaps make the way 'hybrid identities'*

Mimi

*8/10.*

**Outline and explain two reasons for the growth of LATS  
(Living apart together) 10 marks**

One reason for the increased amount of people 'living apart together' is the impact of previous relationships. It is clear that the divorce rate has increased and many people chose to re-marry after going through a divorce, however they may have children from their previous relationship. When people divorce they tend to share custody of their children and so people who are in another relationship outside of their divorce may have their children during the week and then spend the weekends with their new partner. Moving in with someone and bringing your children with you may be a too big of a step in the relationship and this may be a big factor as to why people don't live together. Children may not want to see their mum or dad with another partner and it may be their choice that they don't want to be a part of this new partnership. Duncan and Philips found that both choice and constraint play a part in whether couples live together.

Economic factors may also be a reason as to why there is a growth of partners 'living apart together'. There are 20% of partners living apart together who see their relationship as an 'ideal relationship'. Due to globalisation many people don't live where they work. Many commute and so if people have met their partner at work they may live on opposite sides of the country. Therefore a reason for not living together may be distance, they may wait till later on in their relationship till they want to make such a big step in moving across the country to see each other. Cost of housing continues to rise in the UK and many people live in small apartments or university housing to make up for it. This may mean there is no place for your significant other to live with you.

10/10

Outline and explain two reasons for the increases in the divorce rate in the last 40 years (10)

One reason for the increases in divorce in the last 40 years is the change in Laws. In the 1960s-1969 the divorce rate doubled. Someone had to be in the wrong in order to be able to have a divorce. Evidence was often made up. Divorce reform act (1969/71) removed the need to prove a guilty party and made "irretrievable breakdown" the grounds for divorce. Laws also made divorce cheaper. This was a big factor as many couples couldn't divorce due to the high expense and couldn't afford it. The matrimonial family proceedings act (1984) removed the length of time that a couple have to be married before filing for a divorce from 3 years to 1 year. Beck and Beck would agree with this as their study showed increased individualism and emphasis on personal fulfilment. If someone is unhappy in a marriage they are able to leave.

Another reason for the increases in divorce in the last 40 years was due to changes in social issues. Child maintenance service (2012) absent parents to pay maintenance for children they do not live with. This is beneficial for divorced parents who can't agree on a "family based arrangement" making the financial side of divorce in families easier. The government is taking account of demographic changes within the family helps these families such as lone parent families receiving benefits. Sociological studies which would link to this are Giddens- primary reason given for modern marriage is love, people divorce when they are no longer in love.

*Perhaps  
make your  
reason,  
changes  
to  
economic  
status*

Lily

*↳ Could discuss changing aspirations of women (Sue Sharpe) → women now more able to economically support themselves.*

*7/10.*

*Not sure if this fits*

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

Legal acts such as the civil partnership act 2004 and the marriage (same sex couples) act 2013 have caused an increase in the number of same sex couples with children. These acts have allowed homosexual couples equal rights to heterosexual couples, such as; marriage rights to inheritance, access to children, pension benefits. They also have access to a similar process of ending the relationship to divorce. Joint adoption by same sex couples is legal in 25 countries now which has caused couples to be able to adopt children and have a family. These legal acts have allowed an increase in the number of same sex couples with children because same-sex couples have been given more rights which have made them equal to heterosexual couples. For example they can now get married, and adopt children. In 2015 the most common family type was the married/civil partnership couple with or without dependent children. It is estimated that in the UK in 2013 there was around 20,000 dependant children living in same-sex couple families.

Changes in technology especially medical technology has caused an increase in the number of same-sex couples with children because treatments such as IVF have become widely available. With the first IVF baby being born in 1977, once legal changes and an increase in tolerance and acceptance for same sex couples IVF has become one of the most popular methods for same sex couples to have biological children. Be that via a surrogate in the case of gay couples. IVF has caused an increase in the number of same sex couples with children because alongside with adoption it has allowed these couples to have children.

Naomi

10/10

Outline and explain two reasons for the decline in birth rate [10]:

Recently the birth rate in Britain has declined due to two factors. One factor is the movement of greater gender equality. In our modern society women now have a greater focus on their careers and their primary role is no longer viewed as the primary carer. This is supported by Sharpe's investigation of interviewing girls in the 70s and then the 90s which has revealed a major shift regarding girls' ambitions and how they view their future. In 1974 girls generally had low aspirations, educational success was not a priority and in its place girls favoured love, marriage and children. Whereas in the 90s the attitudes of the female gender had shifted towards prioritising careers and self-independence over a relationship which may ultimately result in children. This demonstrates that women now have greater choice and an equal chance in education. Via prioritising this women will have children later once they have successfully established a career and then may consider having children. However, as women will be having children later this means they will be able to have fewer children while still being fertile resulting in the birth rate declining.

Another reason for the decline in birth rate is the development and availability of modern technology. Contraception and other forms of family planning are widely available in modern society in order to prevent unplanned pregnancies. In addition couples now have the option to terminate a pregnancy in certain circumstances. As well as all of the additional choice, society has shifted in order to accept contraception and other methods of family planning as okay and less of a taboo subject. Overall, couples are able to determine when or even if they want to start a family which in turn lowers the birth rate. Therefore, there is a greater deal of choice regarding having children and the consequences of this in comparison to generations ago. Alan and Crow state people within our society have more choice, this supports the statement as people are now free to choose whether or not to start a family with all the support and treatment available. In addition Giddens also agrees that our society has been transformed by choice via more choice regarding contraception and other factors.

Emma A



Outline and explain two reasons why women are choosing to have children later.

One reason why women are choosing to have children later in life is because their working life has become more important to them. Sue Sharpe compared the attitudes of working class girls in a school in the early 1970's and the 1990's. She found that girls in the 1970's were looking for love and a family in life. However the girls in the 1990s showed that their ambitions were work focused and being able to support themselves. This could be because of the Sex discrimination act that allowed women to have the same pay as a man in the work place. → Relate back - why does this have an in

Another reason why women are choosing to have children later is because of the technological advancements. IVF allows women to freeze eggs and use them in later life. Therefore it opens up a wider window for women to have children. This then allows women to have their younger years for themselves and to accomplish more of their ambitions. This is supported by the decrease in family size because of the older the women, the less children she is likely to have. This can be due to how expensive IVF can be. Also contraception allows women to plan when she can have children which tends to be later so that she is more financially prepared. Contraception is the

more dominant reason - many women use this, whereas IVF is less common

6/10.

## Outline and explain two reasons why more young people are living with their parents for longer.

Education is ~~an~~ one of the main reasons young people are living with their parents for longer. The Education Act (1998) ~~for teaching and higher education increased tuition fees~~ introduced tuition fees for higher education in the UK. The Higher Education Act (2004) raised fees up to £3000 per year. ~~Finally in 2010~~ This was raised to £9000 per year. This ~~explain~~ relates to why young people live with their parents for longer because they physically cannot afford their own place to live due to student debt.

The housing prices affect ~~where~~ what young people can ~~not~~ afford, therefore they will live with their families until they can afford their own place to live. Recent changes to housing benefit entitlement for those under 35 is likely to have some impact on young people being ~~not~~ able to leave the parental home. This would affect young males more, particularly non-resident fathers. This is because non-resident fathers wouldn't have their children living with them and so are only entitled to the cost of living in a room ~~in~~ in a shared house. Therefore, ~~house~~ prices increased house prices force young people to live with their parents for longer. Try to find a statistic that supports the evidence of the average cost of a home.

Outline and explain two reasons for the decrease in family size over the past 30 years (10 marks)

One reason is the rise in feminism which has led to a change in women's aspirations so that less are having children. Sharpe (1984) identifies the idea of how women's expectations are changing as previously in the 1970's women were leaving school and immediately thinking about getting married and having children. However since the 1990s women are more focused on pursuing careers and work is a priority, once they feel they are more stable in the work place they are then considering settling down and having a family. Explain impact on family size.

~~A decline in infant mortality rate is also impacting a decline in infant mortality rate is also impacting~~ A decline in infant mortality rate is also impacting a decline in birth rate as previously children were unlikely to make it through the early years into adulthood so parents were having more children in the hope that one ~~would~~ would live longer whereas now children are almost guaranteed to make it to adulthood. Due to improvements in health care, children are now ~~more~~ almost 100% to ~~be~~ remain to live through infancy so parents do not need to have so many children.

Needs some specific evidence to support e.g. statistics.



Meles

two reasons for

↓  
Outline and Explain the decline in infant Mortality Rates.

One reason is improved housing and better sanitation. For example, flushing toilets and clean drinking water reduced infectious diseases. Infants are much more susceptible to infection because of their less developed immune system.

From around the 1950s, medical factors began to play a big part in reduced infant mortality rates. For example, mass immunisation against childhood diseases such as whooping cough, diphtheria, and later measles, the use of antibiotics to fight infection and improved mid-wifery all contributed to a continuing fall in the IMR.

All of these factors together, reduced the IMR because of the lack of germs and cleaner conditions to live in.

Another reason is improved services for mothers and children, such as antenatal and post-natal clinics.

Antenatal education is more likely to be taken up by first time mothers.

This shows that they are more likely to attend antenatal classes for any more children they have. This results in better knowledge of how to take care of their babies.

Better knowledge results in better care of their kids resulting in a decrease in IMR.

Could tie into the importance of the NHS

8/10

Outline and explain two ways migration has had an impact on families in the UK. (10).

One way migration has impact on families would be that there is now <sup>less</sup> ~~more~~ of a dependency ratio. Immigrants are more likely to be of a working age which ~~lowers~~ the ratio. But there are ~~of~~ younger immigrants that have more children, ~~therefore~~ raising the ratio. For example in 2011 the average age ~~of~~ UK passport holder was 41, whilst non British passports living in the UK was 31. Firstly the longer the migrants are settled in the country, the closer their fertility rate comes to the national average reducing the ratio.

Secondly another way migration has impacted on families would be that a lot of people move to the UK to get better jobs and a larger wage to support their families. It also gives them better housing, free education and in some cases a more safe place to live. Charbers (2012) suggested that globalisation has meant there are more global networks, as migrants

# 10marker

## Outline and explain two reasons for the decline in marriage in the UK

There are many reasons why there is a huge decline in marriage rate in the UK; looking at sociologists they have stated that love and personal commitment is now seen as the cornerstone of marriage what he is trying to say is if you are already affectionate to your partner you do not need signed piece of paper to show their love between one another. Also some may feel that marriage put a lot of pressure on the relationship and it can be very fragile while nearer the time of getting married since you start to question whether you want to be with this person for the rest of your life. More or less, this generation start to realise that some couples get together to deceive each other, for instance some may want to travel to certain country so they get married just to come to the UK.

Moreover, historically women who were <sup>not</sup> married that became pregnant would be socially shunned on their age may have had to give the baby up for adoption. Many people were forced into marriage because of having a baby with their partner. Also there is a saying called don't have sex before marriage, this will also encourage people to get married. Reasons for decline in marriage in the UK is because in a married relationship they may have to split their earnings with their couple that is great however some people may not want that and may cause conflict between the couple.

JR

This reason needs to be made clearer e.g. less social stigma to living together without being married.

3/10 - needs studies and clearer points.

Giddens

who?

Not relevant to this.

Not connected to your previous point.

## Outline and explain two ways in which an ageing population affects family life

One way in which an ageing population affects family life is that they may be living in one person households, which takes up housing space for families with children. This can restrict which areas families are able to buy houses, which may affect which schools the family are able to access. Beanpole families will increase due to an ageing population, therefore there will be more children living with their grandparents at home, maybe whilst parents are out working. Elderly people may be living in poverty, so they may find it hard to sustain a family if they were in a beanpole family and they may not be able to look after themselves in a one person household. (This will increase the dependency ratio as not only children will be dependent on someone to look after them, the elderly may need it too. Children of the elderly may need to take time off work to look after their parents. This can affect their work life as it may be inconvenient for them to leave their work. Elderly who are living in poverty may have a low state income, so in order to stop this, raising the retirement age may help people to have a high pension to ensure they won't be living in poverty.)

Alexander

- Needs split into 2 clearer points e.g.
- 1) Increase of dependency ratio - housing pressure etc.
  - 2) Help with childcare - beanpole families.
- Needs some studies/statistics.

3/10.



**Outline and explain two reasons for the growth in single person households in the contemporary UK [10 marks]**

One of the reasons which could explain why the number of single person households is increasing in the UK is the rise in 'LATs' – people 'living apart together'. One in ten adults are in a relationship like this, in which they are in a significant relationship but are not married or cohabiting. This is about half of the people officially classified as single. The growth in LATs may reflect a trend towards less formalised relationships and 'families of choice'. Couples might also not want to live together because it is not economically affordable. Alternatively, they may choose to live apart to keep their own home, because of a previous troubled relationship or because they deem it 'too early' in the relationship to cohabit. Furthermore, 20% of people see LATs as their 'ideal relationship'. Consequently, the rise in the trend of couples living apart for longer has meant that the number of single person households has increased as partners choose to live separately. The work of postmodernists Allan and Crow would support this view as they have studied the change in the expectations of marriage and relationships. According to their study, relationships are seen less as binding contracts and now prioritise the personal fulfilment of the individual, encouraging couples to part if they do not find the fulfilment they need. Therefore, couples are more likely to separate if they are unhappy within their relationships, deciding to live apart rather than cohabiting. This leads to the increase in single person households in the UK and shows the change in society's norms about relationships.

Another reason that the number of single person households may be increasing is the changing aspirations of women. Due to the growing prominence of the feminist movement during the 1970s, when second wave feminism was prevalent, women have become much more empowered after centuries of being treated as inferior to men in a patriarchal society. The work of the feminist movement towards equal rights for women has allowed women to be able to assertively make their own life choices and become more socially and economically self-reliant. Also, legal changes such as the Sex Discrimination Act of 1975 has allowed women the same rights to pay as men in the workplace, encouraging women to invest in long-term careers instead of domestic work at home. As a result, women are more able to establish a home of their own, leading to an increase in single person households. In addition, Sue Sharpe's study shows the impact of feminism on the aspirations of young girls. Sharpe conducted research into girls' aspirations in the 1970s and 1990s, discovering that girls in the 1970s prioritised finding a husband and settling down, with the prospect of a career at the bottom of their list. In contrast, girls in the 1990s felt more inclined to prioritise their education and consequent career, with the idea of getting married and moving in with their husband a less important focus. Therefore, there has been an increase in women seeking their own home due to their move towards independence instead of being socially and economically dependent on their husband. Postmodernists such as Beck and Giddens would agree that women now have different aspirations, leading to an increase in single person households. Their individualisation thesis explains how traditional social structures, such as gender, have lost much of their influence over us so that individuals in today's society have fewer fixed roles to follow. We have become 'disembedded' from our traditional roles and structures, allowing us more freedom to choose what we do with our life. Alternatively, Smart and May (personal life perspective theorists) would argue that the individualisation thesis ignores the importance of structural factors such as patriarchal gender norms, which limit our choices. In accordance with their approach, women do not have as much freedom as other theorists may believe, meaning that their aspirations have not changed drastically. Therefore personal life perspective theorists may believe that is not a main factor in the increase of single person households.

10/10 excellent but probably a bit long for a 10 marker. You could strip a bit of points out + still get 10/10.

## Outline and explain two reasons for the increase in cohabitation in the contemporary UK. [10]

There are two main reasons which lead to the increase of cohabitation in the UK. Secularisation is a reason to the increase in cohabitation, marriage used to be what everyone wanted due to the religious significance of marriage and the idea that it was "sinful" to live together out of wedlock or even have a child without being married. Between 1996 and 2002 the number of people cohabiting had doubled, also there has been a 100% rise in cohabitation rates recorded in 1986. This can be linked to the gradual decline in religious values throughout society.

Another ideological change which leads to an increase in cohabitation is cohabitation becoming the norm. The idea of living together without being married is no longer regarded as "living in sin" but now as the norm. In 1950s 2% of married partners had combined prior to marriage, today it is most couples. This all links to the decline in religious ideas as living together only happened once you were married.

Isn't this point very similar?

3/10.

Try + make 2nd point more different e.g.

Cost of marriage has increased.

Need to include studies.