5.9 Changing Patterns of Family Life in the UK: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Give three ways UK society has become more accepting of diverse family types, with each way named and briefly explained in the context of legal, cultural or educational change.

(Total for Question 1 is 3 marks)

2 The traditional nuclear family is no longer the best model for society. Evaluate this statement, considering religious and non-religious arguments. In your answer you should give reasoned arguments to support this statement, give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view, refer to religious arguments, and reach a justified conclusion.

(Total for Question 2 is 12 marks)

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3 Give three sociological factors that have contributed to more women in paid employment and therefore helped change family life patterns in the UK, naming each factor briefly.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

4 Give three features of foster families in the UK, naming each feature and keeping the context of changing family provision and support services.

(Total for Question 4 is 3 marks)

5 Explain two sociological reasons for the changing pattern of family life in the UK, for example the rise in blended families, single-parent households and same-sex parenting.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

6 Explain two ways that having an absent parent, for example through separation or work-related absence, can affect children in families in contemporary UK society.

(Total for Question 6 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.9 Changing Patterns of Family Life in the UK: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

one way named, e.g. legal changes such as introduction of same-sex marriage and adoption rights, oe	**B1**
second way named, e.g. more positive media representation of diverse families, oe	**B1**
third way named, e.g. education and public campaigns promoting equality and anti-discrimination, oe	**B1**

Answer: Any three: legal changes like same-sex marriage and adoption rights; more diverse media representation; school and public education promoting equality; workplace protections.

Question 2

Level 4 A well-structured, balanced evaluation that analyses a range of religious and non-religious arguments on both sides, supports assertions with reasoning or evidence, considers the strength of counter-arguments, and reaches a justified conclusion.	**10-12**
Level 3 A clear response that discusses several relevant arguments for and against the view, including some religious material, with a reasonable conclusion.	**7-9**
Level 2 A basic discussion that offers arguments on both sides, with limited development and some reference to religious viewpoints, and a simple conclusion.	**4-6**
Level 1 Limited and descriptive points are made for one or both sides, with little or no religious material and no clear conclusion.	**1-3**
Level 0 No relevant content.	**0**

Indicative content:

- Arguments supporting the statement: increasing diversity of family forms such as same-sex parents, single-parent and blended families fulfil needs of modern life, showing that the nuclear family is not the only effective model.
- Arguments supporting the statement: legal and social changes, women in paid employment and greater social acceptance mean other models can provide stability and care effectively.
- Religious arguments supporting the traditional model: many Christians and Muslims teach that the two-parent married family is the ideal environment for raising children, citing scripture and long tradition.
- Religious arguments opposing a strict traditionalist stance: other religious voices stress compassion, support and the importance of stable loving relationships regardless of exact family structure.
- Non-religious counter-arguments: research shows child wellbeing is linked more to quality of parenting and economic stability than to the exact family form, so diverse families can be equally successful.
- Consideration of social policy: some argue society should support a range of family types with welfare, childcare and legal frameworks rather than promote a single ideal.
- Evaluation might weigh the benefits of continuity and cultural values associated with the nuclear family against evidence that other family types can provide equal care, and conclude with a justified position that recognises complexity.

Question 3

one factor named, e.g. increased access to higher education for women, oe	**B1**
second factor named, e.g. improved employment rights and equal opportunities, oe	**B1**
third factor named, e.g. greater availability of childcare and flexible working patterns, oe	**B1**

Answer: Any three distinct factors such as: increased education for women; stronger employment protections and equal opportunities; better childcare and flexible working; changing social attitudes to gender roles; economic necessity.

Question 4

one feature named, e.g. carers provide temporary care for children who cannot live with their birth parents, oe	**B1**
second feature named, e.g. foster carers may be approved and supported by social services, oe	**B1**
third feature named, e.g. placements can be short-term, long-term or emergency, depending on needs, oe	**B1**

Answer: Any three: temporary care by approved carers; support and oversight from social services; placements vary from emergency to long-term; focus on the child's welfare and contact with birth family where appropriate.

Question 5

point 1: increased divorce and separation rates have created more single-parent households and, through re-partnering, more blended families, oe	**B1**
development: explain how divorce leads to household break-up and new family formations when adults remarry or cohabit, creating step relationships, oe	**B1**
point 2: greater social acceptance and legal change have made it easier for same-sex couples and single people to raise children, increasing diversity in family types, oe	**B1**
development: explain how changes such as same-sex marriage law, adoption rights and reduced stigma enable these family forms to be more visible and stable, oe	**B1**

Answer: E.g. higher divorce leads to single-parent and blended families via separation and re-partnering; growing social acceptance and legal change allow same-sex and other non-traditional households to form families openly.

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Question 6

point 1: emotional impact, such as feelings of loss or insecurity for the child, oe **B1**

development: explain how absence can lead to behaviour changes, lower self-esteem or a need for additional emotional support, oe **B1**

point 2: practical impact, such as reduced household income or less parental supervision, oe **B1**

development: explain how this can affect opportunities, school support or day to day routines, and may require help from extended family or social services, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. emotional effects like insecurity and behavioural change; practical effects such as reduced income or less supervision affecting school and routines.

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