3.11 Forced Marriage as a Contemporary Family Issue: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Use sociological vocabulary and, where asked, full sentences. Spend about 30 minutes on this pack.

1 Explain three reasons why forced marriage is a concern for sociologists studying families and communities in the UK.

(Total for Question 1 is 6 marks)

2 State one common barrier that may prevent victims of forced marriage from reporting to authorities, and briefly explain it.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Using sociological perspectives and evidence, evaluate the view that making forced marriage a criminal offence has reduced the practice in the UK. You should consider arguments that support this view and arguments that question it, and reach a supported judgement.

(Total for Question 3 is 8 marks)

4 State one provision introduced by the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 in the UK regarding protection for potential victims within families or communities.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

5 In which year did UK law make it a criminal offence to force someone to marry, including causing someone to marry without consent?

- ☐ A) 2007
- ☐ B) 2010
- ☐ C) 2014
- ☐ D) 2018

(Total for Question 5 is 1 mark)

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6 Define what a Forced Marriage Protection Order is for a potential victim in the UK and give one example of what a court might order under such an order.

(Total for Question 6 is 2 marks)

7 Explain two ways the police contribute to safeguarding and preventing forced marriage in the UK.

(Total for Question 7 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.11 Forced Marriage as a Contemporary Family Issue: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies first reason, e.g. it raises questions about power and control within families, including gendered power relations **B1**

development of first reason, e.g. forced marriage can be seen as an extreme example of patriarchal control restricting autonomy, especially of women and girls **B1**

identifies second reason, e.g. it shows how cultural and community pressures can shape private family decisions and conflict with wider legal and human rights norms **B1**

development of second reason, e.g. sociologists are concerned with how norms about honour, family reputation or migration contexts influence forced marriage practices **B1**

identifies a third reason, e.g. it links to study of state responses, law and multiagency safeguarding, showing how society protects individual rights **B1**

development of third reason, e.g. sociologists examine whether legal changes, policing and education reduce forced marriage or push it further underground **B1**

Answer: Forced marriage concerns sociologists because it highlights power and control within families, especially gendered control restricting autonomy; it shows how cultural and community pressures, including ideas of honour and reputation, shape private decisions and conflict with legal rights; and it connects to study of state responses and safeguarding, raising questions about the effects of criminalisation and multiagency work.

Question 2

identifies a barrier, e.g. fear of bringing shame on the family or community **B1**

brief explanation, e.g. fear of ostracism or reprisals can stop victims seeking help **B1**

Answer: One barrier is fear of bringing shame on the family or community; victims may avoid reporting because they fear ostracism, reprisals or damaging family reputation.

Question 3

Level 1 Basic points about criminalisation with little or no development. Limited use of sociological ideas and no clear judgement. **1-2**

Level 2 Some developed points on how criminalisation may deter perpetrators or provide protection, and some counter-arguments. Uses at least one sociological idea and offers a partial judgement. **3-5**

Level 3 Well-developed evaluation that balances evidence that criminalisation, police action and FMPOs can protect victims and deter some perpetrators against counter-evidence that criminalisation may push the practice underground or fail where community pressures remain strong. Uses multiple sociological perspectives and reaches a supported conclusion. **6-8**

Indicative content:

- Arguments that criminalisation helps: creation of a clear legal boundary shows state condemnation, enables police prosecutions, and signals to victims they have rights; criminal law combined with FMPOs and the Forced Marriage Unit can provide immediate protection and deterrence.
- Evidence that criminalisation may have limited effect: some forced marriages are hidden or occur overseas where UK law has limited reach, victims may be less likely to report due to fear of criminalising family members, and community pressure or patriarchal control can persist despite the law.
- Sociological perspectives: feminist perspectives highlight patriarchal control as a root cause and welcome legal sanctions but warn law alone does not change gendered power relations; interactionist perspectives emphasise how individuals experience pressure and may not see actions as criminal; functionalist perspectives might point to the role of social norms and institutions in upholding or changing behaviour.
- Evaluation issues: consider evidence from safeguarding agencies, prosecution rates, and the role of multiagency work; weigh the benefits of legal tools against unintended consequences such as increased secrecy, and conclude whether criminalisation is one effective element among wider prevention and support measures rather than a complete solution on its own.

Question 4

identifies a correct provision, eg the Act allows courts to issue Forced Marriage Protection Orders to prevent a forced marriage **B1**

brief development, eg the orders can include measures to protect a person and stop people being taken abroad **B1**

Answer: The Act allows courts to issue Forced Marriage Protection Orders to prevent forced marriages; these orders can include measures to protect a person and stop them being taken abroad.

Question 5

C (2014) **B1**

Answer: C

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Question 6

identifies that a Forced Marriage Protection Order is a civil court order to protect someone at risk of forced marriage **B1**

gives an example, e.g. the court can order that the person must not be taken abroad or that named individuals must not contact the victim **B1**

Answer: A Forced Marriage Protection Order is a civil court order to protect someone at risk of forced marriage; for example, a court can order that the person must not be taken abroad or that particular family members must not contact or approach the victim.

Question 7

identifies one way, e.g. police can investigate reports and gather evidence to support criminal charges where coercion or threats are used **B1**

development, e.g. police action can deter perpetrators and protect potential victims through immediate safety measures **B1**

identifies a second way, e.g. police can work with other agencies and use emergency measures such as safe accommodation and liaison with the Forced Marriage Unit **B1**

development, e.g. coordinated responses help ensure victims are protected and prosecutions, where appropriate, are supported **B1**

Answer: Police can investigate reports and gather evidence to support criminal charges, deterring perpetrators and enabling immediate safety measures; they can also work with other agencies and the Forced Marriage Unit to arrange safe accommodation and coordinated protection.

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