3.13 Social Policy and the Law: Civil Partnerships and Same-Sex Marriage: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Write full sentences in extended answers Q16.

1 Using your knowledge of policy and family sociology, explain two reasons why some feminist sociologists support equal marriage and adoption rights for same-sex couples.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Define the sociological term 'heteronormativity' and explain its relevance to debates about civil partnerships and same-sex marriage.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.13 Social Policy and the Law: Civil Partnerships and Same-Sex Marriage: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a reason, e.g. equal rights reduce discrimination and structural inequality for LGBT people	**B1**
development, e.g. this supports gender equality goals by challenging heteronormative assumptions about family roles	**B1**
identifies a second reason, e.g. legal recognition can improve material conditions for parents and children in same-sex families	**B1**
development, e.g. this includes access to parental leave, adoption rights and social security that benefit children	**B1**

Answer: Feminists support equal marriage and adoption rights because they reduce discrimination and structural inequality for LGBT people, challenging heteronormative assumptions about family roles, and because legal recognition improves material conditions for parents and children through access to parental leave, adoption rights and social security.

Question 2

defines heteronormativity as the assumption that heterosexual relationships are the normal or preferred form of sexual relationship	**B1**
development, e.g. it includes norms about gender roles and family structure that privilege heterosexual couples	**B1**
explains relevance, e.g. civil partnerships and same-sex marriage challenge heteronormative assumptions by giving legal recognition to non-heterosexual relationships	**B1**
further development, e.g. changing laws can reduce institutional reinforcement of heteronormativity in areas like adoption and public services	**B1**

Answer: Heteronormativity is the assumption that heterosexual relationships are the normal or preferred form of sexual relationship, including norms about gender roles that privilege heterosexual couples; civil partnerships and same-sex marriage challenge these assumptions by giving legal recognition to non-heterosexual relationships and reducing institutional reinforcement of heteronormativity.

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