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

AQA 8192 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

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

1 Which UK Act first gave same-sex couples legal recognition similar to marriage, allowing them to form a civil partnership from 2005 onwards?

- ☐ A) Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013
- ☐ B) Civil Partnership Act 2004
- ☐ C) Equality Act 2010
- ☐ D) Human Rights Act 1998

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Identify one limitation of using only legal change to judge how accepted same-sex families are in society.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 State one piece of evidence sociologists could use to show that same-sex marriage has increased social acceptance of same-sex relationships.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Explain two legal changes introduced by the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 in England and Wales.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 Identify and explain one reason liberal sociologists welcome legal recognition of same-sex relationships in the UK, referring to equality and individual rights.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

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

Question 1

B (Civil Partnership Act 2004) **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

identifies a limitation, e.g. laws can change faster than social attitudes, so legal change does not guarantee immediate social acceptance **B1**

brief development, e.g. discrimination and prejudice can persist despite formal legal equality **B1**

Answer: One limitation is that legal change can outpace social attitudes, so formal equality does not guarantee immediate social acceptance; discrimination and prejudice can continue despite changes in the law.

Question 3

identifies a suitable piece of evidence, e.g. survey data showing a rise in public support for same-sex marriage over time **B1**

brief development, e.g. or statistics showing increasing numbers of same-sex marriages or conversions of civil partnerships **B1**

Answer: One piece of evidence would be survey data showing rising public support for same-sex marriage over time, or statistics showing increasing numbers of same-sex marriages or conversions of civil partnerships.

Question 4

identifies one legal change, e.g. it allowed same-sex couples to marry in civil ceremonies **B1**

development, e.g. this granted same-sex couples the same legal status and many of the same rights as opposite-sex married couples **B1**

identifies a second legal change, e.g. it allowed conversion of existing civil partnerships into marriages **B1**

development, e.g. this gave civil partners the option to become married without dissolving their partnership first **B1**

Answer: It allowed same-sex couples to marry in civil ceremonies, giving them the same legal status and many of the same rights as opposite-sex married couples, and it allowed existing civil partnerships to be converted into marriages.

Question 5

identifies a reason, e.g. it promotes equality and reduces discrimination against same-sex couples **B1**

development, e.g. legal recognition gives same-sex couples access to rights and social respect previously denied **B1**

explains how this links to liberal values, e.g. liberals value individual freedom and equal civil rights **B1**

further development, e.g. the law change is seen as removing unjust state barriers to personal choice and family formation **B1**

Answer: Liberals welcome legal recognition because it promotes equality and reduces discrimination, giving same-sex couples access to rights and social respect; this fits liberal values of individual freedom and equal civil rights and removes unjust state barriers to family formation.

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