3.4 Changing Patterns of Marriage, Divorce and Cohabitation: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Show your understanding by using sociological vocabulary and, where asked, your own examples.

1 Give an example of a legal change to who can marry in the UK, state the year it took effect, and explain one impact this had on family diversity.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 For each trend below, identify one factor covered in this pack that sociologists link to it.

(a) A rise in the divorce rate after 1971. **(1)**

(b) More couples living together without marrying. **(1)**

(c) Fewer people feeling social pressure to marry before having children. **(1)**

(d) The average age at first marriage rising over recent decades. **(1)**

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.4 Changing Patterns of Marriage, Divorce and Cohabitation: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

a correct example, e.g. the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act **B1**

a correct year, e.g. 2014 **B1**

identifies an impact, e.g. it gave same-sex couples the same legal right to marry as opposite-sex couples **B1**

development, e.g. this added to the range of officially recognised family and marriage forms in the UK **B1**

Answer: The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act allowed same-sex couples to marry in England and Wales from 2014, giving them the same legal right to marry as opposite-sex couples and adding to the range of officially recognised family forms.

Question 2

(a) the legal change made by the Divorce Reform Act 1969 (easier grounds for divorce) **B1**

(a) Answer: The Divorce Reform Act 1969, which made divorce easier to obtain.

(b) individualisation/personal choice, secularisation, or women's economic independence (any one, credit if consistent) **B1**

(b) Answer: Individualisation and personal choice (Beck and Beck-Gernsheim), or declining religious influence, or women's economic independence.

(c) secularisation/declining religious influence **B1**

(c) Answer: Secularisation, the declining social influence of religion.

(d) individualisation/personal choice, or women's economic independence (e.g. more time in education/career before marrying) **B1**

(d) Answer: Individualisation and personal choice, or women's greater economic independence and time spent in education and careers before marrying.

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