3.4 Changing Patterns of Marriage, Divorce and Cohabitation: Test Pack

AQA 8192 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

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

1 Which term describes the idea that people increasingly build their lives, including relationships, around personal choice rather than fixed traditions?

- ☐ A) Functional fit
- ☐ B) Individualisation
- ☐ C) The symmetrical family
- ☐ D) The neo-conventional family

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Explain two ways rising divorce and remarriage have changed patterns of family life for children.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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3 State one strength and one weakness of using official marriage and divorce statistics to study family change.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Couples today have several relationship options available to them.

(a) Explain one reason a couple might choose to cohabit rather than marry. **(2)**

(b) Explain one reason a couple who are already cohabiting might choose to marry. **(2)**

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.4 Changing Patterns of Marriage, Divorce and Cohabitation: Test Pack

Question 1

B (individualisation) **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

identifies one way, e.g. more children now experience their parents separating and living in a lone-parent or step-family household at some point in childhood **B1**

development **B1**

identifies a second, different way, e.g. more children have contact with step-parents, half-siblings and step-siblings through a parent's remarriage or re-partnering **B1**

development **B1**

Answer: More children now experience a parent's separation and live in a lone-parent or step-family household at some point, and more children have contact with step-parents, half-siblings and step-siblings through a parent's remarriage.

Question 3

identifies a genuine strength, e.g. they cover the whole population and are collected consistently over time, allowing long-term trends to be tracked **B1**

development of the strength **B1**

identifies a genuine weakness, e.g. they do not capture cohabiting relationships that form or end without legal marriage or divorce **B1**

development of the weakness **B1**

Answer: Strength: official statistics cover the whole population and are collected consistently over time, allowing long-term trends to be tracked. Weakness: they do not capture cohabiting relationships that form or end without legal marriage or divorce.

Question 4

(a) a genuine reason, e.g. to test the relationship before a bigger commitment, because wedding costs are a barrier, or because personal beliefs do not require marriage **B1**

(a) brief development **B1**

(a) Answer: A couple might cohabit to test their relationship before a bigger commitment, or because the cost of a wedding is a barrier to marrying straight away.

(b) a genuine reason, e.g. for the legal rights and protections marriage provides, or for religious, cultural or family reasons, or to publicly mark a long-term commitment **B1**

(b) brief development **B1**

(b) Answer: A cohabiting couple might marry for the legal rights and protections marriage provides, or to publicly mark a long-term commitment to family and friends.

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