3.8 Reasons for the Decline in Family Size in Modern Britain: Test Pack

AQA 8192 · about 20 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. For questions that ask for two reasons or two examples give both in full sentences. Spend about 20 minutes on the whole pack.

1 Which one of the following is a sociological reason often given for why families in modern Britain have fewer children?

- ☐ A) wider access to contraception
- ☐ B) higher natural birthability
- ☐ C) lower school enrolment
- ☐ D) reduced life expectancy

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 State one criticism of explaining smaller family size only by reference to individual choice and changing attitudes.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Describe two sociological changes, other than contraception and education, that have contributed to the decline in family size in modern Britain.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Define what sociologists mean by 'family size' in the context of modern Britain and demographic change.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

5 Identify and explain one way more women staying in education leads to smaller family sizes in modern Britain.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

6 Give one way government family policy could unintentionally encourage smaller family sizes, as relevant to families in the UK.

(Total for Question 6 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.8 Reasons for the Decline in Family Size in Modern Britain: Test Pack

Question 1

A (wider access to contraception) **B1**

Answer: A

Question 2

identifies a criticism, e.g. it ignores structural factors such as economic constraints or unequal childcare provision **B1**

brief development, e.g. presenting smaller families as purely a choice can overlook how costs or lack of support limit real options **B1**

Answer: A criticism is that focusing on individual choice ignores structural factors such as economic constraints or unequal childcare provision, so smaller families may result from limited options rather than free choice.

Question 3

identifies first change, e.g. rising cost of living or housing **B1**

development of first change **B1**

identifies second change, e.g. changing gender roles or greater acceptance of childfree lifestyles **B1**

development of second change **B1**

Answer: Rising cost of living and housing has made raising children more expensive and delayed family formation. Changing gender roles and greater acceptance of childfree lifestyles mean many people now value careers, leisure or personal choice over having larger families.

Question 4

identifies family size as the number of children in a family or household, usually counted per family unit (oe) **B1**

development, e.g. can be expressed as the typical number of children parents choose to have in a household **B1**

Answer: Family size is the number of children in a family or household, usually counted per family unit; it refers to the typical number of children parents choose to have.

Question 5

identifies that staying in education delays the age at which women have their first child **B1**

explains that delaying first births shortens the period in which women are likely to have additional children, reducing total family size **B1**

identifies the link to career and further study commitments **B1**

develops by noting that combining higher education with childrearing is harder, so some women choose fewer children to complete education and training **B1**

Answer: More women staying in education delays the age of first birth, which shortens the time available for having more children; increased study and training commitments mean some women choose fewer children to complete education and start careers.

Question 6

gives a correct way, e.g. limited childcare support or short parental leave makes having many children less affordable **B1**

brief development linking policy to family size choices **B1**

Answer: If government childcare support is limited or parental leave is short, the financial and practical cost of having more children rises, so parents may choose smaller families.

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