3.9 The New Right Perspective on Family Structure and Family Values: Test Pack

AQA 8192 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Use full sentences for extended answers and the 12-mark evaluation. Show sociological knowledge and, where asked, give brief examples. Total time suggested 15 minutes.

1 Which family form do New Right sociologists typically idealise as best for raising children in contemporary Britain?

- ☐ A) Extended family with multiple generations living together
- ☐ B) Same-sex households with shared parenting
- ☐ C) Married heterosexual nuclear family with a breadwinning father and homemaker mother
- ☐ D) Lone-parent family supported by the state

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Compare briefly one New Right claim about family change with one opposing sociological criticism, focusing on causes of lone-parenthood.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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3 Explain two reasons the New Right give for why rising lone-parenthood is a social problem in the UK, focusing on family structure and welfare.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Item A: A short summary of government benefit changes and family outcomes in a hypothetical UK town between 2000 and 2018. In Townsville, local statistics show single-parent households rose from 10% to 20% of families, while the proportion of households where a father is the main earner fell from 70% to 50%. Local councils also report increased use of some means-tested benefits. Using Item A and your own knowledge of the New Right perspective, explain two ways the New Right would interpret these changes in Townsville.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.9 The New Right Perspective on Family Structure and Family Values: Test Pack

Question 1

C (married heterosexual nuclear family with a breadwinning father and homemaker mother)	**B1**

Answer: C

Question 2

identifies a New Right claim, e.g. welfare generosity causes rises in lone-parenthood	**B1**
identifies a sociological criticism, e.g. critics argue economic factors like unemployment and housing costs better explain lone-parenthood	**B1**
explains how the two differ in causal focus, e.g. New Right focus on individual choices and incentives, critics focus on structural economic causes	**B1**
brief development, e.g. this difference implies different policy responses, such as benefit cuts versus poverty reduction	**B1**

Answer: The New Right claim welfare generosity causes rises in lone-parenthood by creating perverse incentives, while critics argue structural economic factors like unemployment, low wages and housing costs better explain family changes. The New Right focus on individual incentives and moral choices, whereas critics emphasise structural causes, implying different policy responses such as benefit cuts versus poverty reduction measures.

Question 3

identifies reason one, e.g. lone-parenthood undermines the traditional nuclear family and reduces parental role models, especially fathers	**B1**
development of reason one, e.g. New Right claim absence of a male breadwinner and male authority harms discipline and socialisation of children	**B1**
identifies reason two, e.g. welfare benefits encourage lone-parenthood by reducing the financial need to marry	**B1**
development of reason two, e.g. they argue this creates perverse incentives leading to more fatherless, state-dependent households	**B1**

Answer: The New Right argue lone-parenthood undermines the traditional nuclear family by removing a male breadwinner and fatherly role model, which they claim weakens discipline and socialisation. They also argue generous welfare benefits can encourage lone-parenthood by reducing the financial incentive to marry, creating more state-dependent fatherless households.

Question 4

identifies a New Right interpretation, e.g. rising single-parent households are evidence of family breakdown and moral decline	**B1**
development of that interpretation using Item A, e.g. the rise from 10% to 20% is used to show an erosion of the traditional nuclear family	**B1**
identifies a second New Right interpretation, e.g. increased means-tested benefits and fewer father main earners show welfare creating dependency and disincentives to marry	**B1**
development of the second interpretation using Item A, e.g. the fall in father main earners from 70% to 50% is linked to New Right concerns about fatherless, state-dependent households	**B1**

Answer: The New Right would say Townsville's rise in single-parent households from 10% to 20% shows family breakdown and a moral decline away from the traditional nuclear family. They would also argue the increase in means-tested benefits alongside a fall in households with a father as main earner from 70% to 50% shows welfare creating dependency and reducing incentives to marry, producing more fatherless, state-dependent households.

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