3.7-2 Family Diversity and Family Forms (Set 2): 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 Postmodernist sociologists argue that family life today is far more varied and based on choice than in the past. Explain the postmodernist view of family diversity.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 State one criticism that is often made of the New Right view of family diversity.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Explain one way family structures in the UK have changed over the last 50 years.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.7-2 Family Diversity and Family Forms (Set 2): 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies that postmodernists argue there is no longer one dominant, 'normal' family type	**B1**
explains that individuals increasingly choose the type of family and relationships that suit them, rather than following one fixed pattern	**B1**
credits the sociologist Judith Stacey, whose research on Californian families led her to describe increasingly varied and fluid 'postmodern families'	**B1**
development, e.g. Stacey also described a 'divorce-extended family', where former in-laws and step-relatives formed through divorce and remarriage stay connected as an extended network	**B1**

Answer: Postmodernists argue there is no single 'normal' family type today, and individuals increasingly choose the family form that suits them. Judith Stacey's research described increasingly varied, fluid 'postmodern families', including 'divorce-extended families' where former in-laws and step-relatives stay connected after divorce and remarriage.

Question 2

identifies a recognised criticism, e.g. it can unfairly blame lone-parent families for problems that are really caused by poverty or a lack of support	**B1**
brief development, e.g. or that it treats the nuclear family as 'normal', when family diversity has always existed in different forms	**B1**

Answer: Critics argue the New Right can unfairly blame lone-parent families for problems really caused by poverty, and wrongly treats the nuclear family as the only 'normal' family type.

Question 3

identifies a genuine long-term change, e.g. a rise in cohabitation (couples living together without marrying) or a fall in the average family size	**B1**
brief development, e.g. more couples now live together before, or instead of, marrying, compared with 50 years ago	**B1**

Answer: There has been a long-term rise in cohabitation: more couples now live together before, or instead of, marrying, compared with 50 years ago.

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