

10 Mark Practice Questions

Families and Households

Outline and Explain Questions (*no item*)

*Hint: Point – Explain – Expand/ Analyse (*2)*

10 Mark 'Outline and Explain' Mark Scheme

Mark	Level Descriptors
8-10	<p>Answers in this band will show very good knowledge and understanding of gender roles and of diversity of family structures.</p> <p>There will be two applications of relevant material, eg how changes to gender roles have led to women delaying marriage; how women's financial independence has led to more lone parent families.</p> <p>There will be appropriate analysis.</p>
4-7	<p>Answers in this band will show a reasonable to good knowledge and understanding of gender roles and/or of diversity of family structures.</p> <p>There will be one or two applications of relevant material, eg how women's greater involvement in paid work has led to more childless couples.</p> <p>There will be some basic analysis.</p>
1-3	<p>Answers in this band will show limited knowledge and little or no understanding of the question or the material.</p> <p>There will be limited focus on the question, eg there may be some drift into accounts of family diversity in general.</p> <p>There will be little or no analysis.</p>
0	No relevant points

In order to get into the top mark band for these questions you need to do the following:

- Outline two distinct reasons/ criticisms, they need to be different to each other.
- For each reason/ criticism you need to explain the effect showing 'chains of causality' - you need to make your point, explain the effect it has and then expand on it.
- You need to analyse the reason/ consequence/ criticism - showing how it has different effects for different people, for example
- You need to conclude.....

Question – Outline and explain two ways in which women’s going into work has affected relationships (10)

To get two distinct points, you need to talk about two distinct aspects of relationships – Any of the following can make up either of your two points.

- *Housework*
- *parenting and childcare*
- *money management*
- *divorce*
- *family types*

Point: one way in which women’s going into paid work has affected relationships is that it has changed the ‘gendered division of labour’.

Development/ Analysis – March of progress sociologists argue that this has resulted in women doing less housework and families becoming more symmetrical.

Development/ Analysis - However, Radical Feminists argue this has simply led to the dual burden and triple shift – where women now do more paid work and still do the majority of the housework and childcare.

Development/ Analysis - There seems to be evidence for both –surveys show that men do more housework and childcare than in the past, but women still do about twice as much housework as men, and are the primary child carers in at least 80% of families.

Development/ Analysis - Whether or not paid work is liberating for women also depends on social class – for women in professional jobs, earning very high salaries, they can easily work part-time and earn a decent income and still perform the ‘caring role’, while for women in low-paid jobs, paid work probably isn’t as liberating, if they face the dual burden.

Point: A second way in which women going into paid work has affected relationships is that relationships are now more unstable.

Development/ Analysis - For example, divorce is now more common because women have more financial independence, they are no longer financially dependent on their husband’s income because they have better job opportunities.

Development/ Analysis Also the fact that women now start careers early (in their 20s) this means they are less likely to feel the need to get married in the first place, so we see the rise of cohabitation, which have higher break up rates than married relationships.

Development/ Analysis This is also related to the fact that career-women have babies later in life, and so there are fewer (young) couples who have to stay together for the sake of the children.

Development/ Analysis - Postmodernists such as Beck argue that all of this is just part of ‘individualisation’ and is an unfortunate but necessary consequence of greater gender equality. However, the New Right argue that it is a sign of moral decline, and believe that women (and men) should make more effort to stick it out in relationships.

Outline and explain two ways in which changes to gender roles have affected diversity of family structures (10)

Reason 1 - Changing gender roles - the fact that women want to establish careers first means they put off having babies. Girls have overtaken boys in education, most people in university are girls and most households are dual income households.

This has led to a decline of the traditional expressive role and the idea of women as carers, such that most women now choose to spend their 20s building their careers and have babies in their 30s, meaning there is only time for one or two children rather than two or three. Some women, of course, remain childless.

Total fertility rate varies - the TFR for women in their 30s has declined, but it has actually increased for women in their 30s and 40s because of the above changes.

Reason 2 - Technological changes - the introduction of contraception in the 1950s means that sex no longer has to result in pregnancy.

This is widely regarded as one of the most important factors - since the 1960s we have become more liberated about sex and sexuality, but contraception has kept the birth rate down.

However, it may not just be technology, education programmes, and free distribution of contraception in recent years may also have played a role.

Technology also changes the ages at which people have babies - contraception = fewer young women having babies while IVF means more older women, and an increase in the TFR for women in their 40s especially.

Outline two consequences of the ageing population for British society (10)

Consequence 1 - The ageing population may put a strain on public services

Increasing numbers of pensioners puts a strain on the NHS because pensioners use health services more than younger people

Furthermore, with increasing numbers of pensioners 'sucking money' out of the welfare state' there is less left for everything else – services for the young are being cut to compensate

This is because healthy life expectancy is not keeping pace with life-expectancy, and there are increasing numbers of people in their 80s who spend several years with chronic physical conditions such as arthritis, and also dementia both of which require intensive social care.

While the ageing population presents problems, there are solutions – such as improving education about how to stay healthy in later life, changing ideas about working so that people are able to work for longer could be part of the solution.

Consequence 2 - The ageing population puts more of a burden on the younger generation

An ageing population means the dependency ratio has increased – there are fewer working aged people around to support pensioners. The next two generations are bearing a disproportionate cost of the current ageing population.

People in their 50s have become a 'sandwich generation' – they are now caught between having to provide care for their elderly parents, while still having their 20 something children living at home.

However, things are even worse for today's teenagers – the retirement aged has now been pushed back to 68 – young people today are going to have to retire much later than their current grandparents.

While the ageing population presents problems, there are solutions – such as improving education about how to stay healthy in later life, changing ideas about working so that people are able to work for longer could be part of the solution.

Outline and briefly explain two reasons why society has become more child centred (10)

Just some points and a few thoughts on how you might develop them...

- Increasing incomes/ better standards of living – more money spent on children/ more leisure time to spend with children/ fewer children/ HOWEVER toxic childhood
- Social policy changes protecting children – Education/ work/ social services/ rights of the child/ HOWEVER cotton-wool kids/ conflict perspectives
- Postmodernism – increasing uncertainty/ fear in society – media moral panics/ fewer children/ more protective/ identity.
- Functional fit theory – families smaller/ society needs fewer children/ evolutionary/