

2019 Section B Q5

(a) Explain the following sociological terms: • **socialisation** • **socio-economic group** • **social mobility** • **social change** • **kinship**.

Socialisation: the process whereby an individual learns appropriate norms, values, behaviour and social skills in order to behave in a manner acceptable to society

Socio-economic group: this is the classification of individuals based on income, education and/or job.

Social mobility: the movement of individuals between socio-economic groupings.

Social change: changes that take place throughout society.

Kinship: the relationship that exists between family members.

(b) Describe the characteristics of contemporary family structures

Nuclear Family: this consists of parents and their children. They are small in size and mobile. They are usually dual income households with egalitarian roles between the parents.

Extended Family: consists of grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins. They are large in size and often immobile. In the past, patriarchal style decision making was evident in these types of families.

One Parent Family: consists of a lone parent with his or her children. 87% of these families in Ireland are headed by females. The parent in this household has to perform the role of two parents.

Blended Family: consists of two parents from past relationships and their children coming together to form a new family. This type of family is becoming more common due to more separations and divorces. Conflict can occur between siblings and stepsiblings in this type of family as there is sometimes tension leftover from the divorce or separation.

(c) Discuss the social, economic and technological changes that affect families today

Social Changes

- 1) Marital breakdown: since the introduction of the Divorce Act 1996, there is less stigma around divorces and separations.
Effect - increase in one parent and blended families
- 2) Changing role of women: more women are advancing to 3rd level education than ever before which means more women working outside the home than ever before.
Effect - families tend to be smaller as women are having less children.

Economic Changes

- 1) High cost of living: Ireland is now one of the top 10 most expensive countries to live in with housing prices soaring across the country and especially in the capital.
Effect - families are having fewer children due to the high cost of childcare.
- 2) State Benefits: payments help families deal with the financial pressure of raising children e.g. One-Parent Family Payment
Effect - this allows lone parents to provide for their children's needs

Technological Changes

- 1) Automated household appliances: such as the washing machine and dishwasher allow housework to be completed much faster.
Effect – increases leisure time for families
- 2) Communication: developments in communication technology has occurred e.g. email, WhatsApp etc.
Effect – closer bond between family members as they can stay in contact with each other