

2014 Section B Q5

(a) Outline the historical development of the family in Ireland from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present day.

Size

From 1900-1960, families were very large in size with families having 7 or 8 children on average.

From 1960-1990, family size became smaller due to the Catholic Church having less of an effect on society meaning that contraception became more widely available. From the 1990s to today, families are small with 1.4 children on average. This is a result of more women working outside the home.

Structure

The structure of the family has changed hugely. From 1900-1960, the extended family was the norm. From 1960-1990, the urban nuclear family became the most common as families moved from rural to urban areas in search of employment and a better standard of living. Today, the nuclear family is still the most common with one-parent and blended families becoming more common.

Marriage

From 1900-1960, marriages were often arranged with a dowry usually being involved. From 1960-1990 people were marrying based off of romantic love. In today's Ireland, same sex marriage is becoming more common because of the same sex referendum that happened in May 2015.

Roles

From 1900-1960, men were mainly the breadwinners and women stayed at home to clean the house and raise the children. In 1960-1990, the roles started to become more egalitarian with more women working outside the home. In today's society, families are mainly dual income households with egalitarian roles existing between partners.

(b) (i) Give an account of each of the following functions of the family: • economic function • socialisation function • educational function.

Economic Function: the family has a function to financially provide for dependent children until the age of 18 and until 23 for those in full time education. This involves providing the children with the essential things they need such as food, shelter, school supplies.

Socialisation Function: the family is responsible for teaching the child the skills needed to behave in a manner acceptable to society. This could include organising play dates and teaching manners, both of which will help to develop social skills in the child.

Educational Function: the family should provide a stimulating environment for the child to learn and develop in. Family should help with homework and encourage hobbies such as reading and writing to develop literacy skills in the child.

(ii) Explain how state interventions assist the family in carrying out these functions.

Back to school clothing and footwear allowance: this helps to ease the financial strain that comes with going back to school by helping the parents pay for school uniforms.

ECCE: this provides one free year of preschool for kids aged between 3 and 5. This helps families to carry out their educational and economic function.

(c) Assess the role of grandparents in modern family life.

In some families, grandparents assist with childcare. They pass on morals, values and wisdom to both their children and grandchildren. They provide emotional support for their children and grandchildren.