

## 2020 Section B Q5

**(a) Give an account of the historical development of the family in Ireland from the middle of the twentieth century to the present day.**

Structure: From 1900-1960, the extended family structure was the norm. From 1960-1990, it changed to an urban nuclear family as people began to move away from rural areas in search of work and a better standard of living. From 1990-today, the nuclear family is the most common with one parent and blended families increasing in popularity.

Marriage: From 1900-1960, marriages were often arranged by parents for economic benefits. From 1960-1990, people chose their partners based off of romantic love. In today's world, we are living in a more secular society which makes it more acceptable for couples to cohabit rather than marry. Same sex couples are now free to marry as a result of the Marriage Act 2015.

Size: From 1900-1960, families were large in size and society was strongly influenced by the Catholic Church. In 1960-1990, contraception became available which reduced family sizes. From the 1990s-today, family size has decreased massively and now the average number of children per family is 1.4

Standard of Living: From 1900-1960, families' standards of living were poor as wages were low. Infant mortality rates were high as a result. In the 1960-1990 era, there was electricity and better sanitation so infant mortality rates dropped. In modern times, homes are now better insulated and health services have improved.

Roles: From 1900-1960, families were patriarchal with wives staying at home to mind the children and men being the breadwinners. From 1960-1990, the roles became less segregated but still, men were predominantly the breadwinners. In society today, roles are egalitarian with both parents having a say on family life and in most houses, both parents are working.

**(b) Outline the roles and responsibilities of family members and explain how these roles evolve through the life cycle of the family**

Children/Teenagers: children and teenagers are expected to help out with the running of the home. Children are expected to try their best in school and to help out with small chores around the home. Teenagers have a bit more responsibility. They are expected to help out with the running of the house e.g. by completing chores and looking after siblings when needed.

Parents: they have an important economic function. They financially provide for the family by going to work. They nurture and raise the children in a loving and caring environment. They have an important role to play in the children's education too by assisting with reading and homework.

Grandparents: in some situations, grandparents provide childcare. They also pass on values to their grandchildren and they give advice to their own children.

**(c) Discuss the importance of good communication within the family.**

It is easier to solve disagreements within the home as problems are discussed openly and then they are solved quickly.

It helps to form closer bonds between family members as members get to understand each other better

It created a positive and relaxed environment in the home. This makes everyone's life easier.