

2017 Section B Q5

(a). Outline the variations that exist in marriage today

Today couples have a choice in the ceremony they can have for their wedding. They can choose a religious ceremony that takes place in a church, a civil ceremony that can take place in the registry office or a registered building e.g. hotel

Same sex marriage: It is now legal for people of the same sex to get married, however their ceremony can only be a civil ceremony as opposed to a male and female allowed to marry in a church.

Second marriages: Nowadays when people get divorced they are free to marry again, however it has to be a civil ceremony and they must have been previously granted a divorce.

Number of spouses: In some cultures only monogamy is accepted but in some, polygamy is also accepted. Polygamy is having a number of wives or husbands - in some cases this is due to a smaller population of either male or female.

(b) Discuss the benefits of a pre-marriage course for couples preparing for marriage

Family planning: This topic is discussed between the couple and allows them both to clearly see what the other is hoping for regarding children e.g. how many, who is going to mind the kids etc.

Conflict resolution: A couple think of problems that they think may arise e.g. death or budgeting and learn how to use techniques that will have them deal with the problem.

Expectations: The couple discuss in detail what they expect in the marriage e.g. roles, child rearing etc. It allows them to understand and confer about specific topics to prevent conflict in the future e.g. making dinner, chores etc.

Communication skills: A couple also learns and improves their communication skills in order to prevent conflict. This lets the couple be able to share their thoughts and listen to the other person which helps create a happy marriage.

(c) Evaluate each of the following options available to couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage

Marriage counselling: Both spouses must be present and engaged to help the couple together and rectify their marriage. Marriage counselling is free through accord or the marriage and relationships counselling services. However the couple may be asked to contribute. It is carried out by a trained, confidential and non-judgmental counsellor.

Family mediation: This is a service provided for free by the F.M.S under social protection. It helps couples who are separating/divorcing arrange aspects of their future with the help of a mediator e.g. custody of children, division of finances, family home etc. The mediator draws up the results accepted and it is signed by both spouses before given to their solicitors for legal binding.

Legal separation: The couple agrees on the terms of their future rights and duties in a legal written contract. The agreement includes: agreement to live apart, responsibility for and care of dependent children, amount of maintenance to be paid for support of dependent spouse/children and the ownership of the home.