

Section A

Answer Question 1.

- 1 In modern industrial societies there has been a decline in the number of marriages and an increase in divorce. There has also been an increase in the average age at which individuals first marry. In addition, the reasons why people marry have changed. In the past, many people married primarily for economic reasons, such as to maintain family wealth or the supply of labour. Due to this, couples usually remained together even if they were in an *empty-shell marriage*.

As a result of recent social changes, families became units of consumption and some sociologists have argued that people are now more likely to marry for emotional rather than economic reasons. Therefore the idea of marriage based on romantic love and companionship has become common and couples expect more from their relationship today. At the same time, in some societies, legal changes have enabled married couples to divorce more easily and household types not based on marriage are now more socially acceptable.

- (a) What is meant by the term *empty-shell marriage*? [2]
- (b) Describe **two** household types not based on marriage. [4]
- (c) Explain why there has been a decline in the number of marriages in modern industrial societies. [8]
- (d) Assess the view that the divorce rate has increased because married couples expect more from their relationship today. [11]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

- 2 'People living longer has led to an increase in the number of extended families in modern industrial societies.' Explain and assess this view. [25]
- 3 'The experience of family life may be damaging for family members.' Explain and assess this view. [25]

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