

The Family and Recent Social Change

Recent demographic change

Name and date begun:

Time allocation:

3 lessons

Learning objectives:

- Students should understand that the family is undergoing a period of rapid change in our society.
- These changes are giving rise to major political and social concerns.
- There are a number of reasons why families are changing so rapidly.
- These changes will impact on all of our lives.

Key Concepts and vocabulary

See your lesson notes for a list of the key terms. These must be learned in addition to the following:

- Divorce
- Birth rate
- Death rate
- Illegitimacy
- Ageing populations
- Dependent populations
- Marriage as a legal institution
- Death of the family

Additional reading and references

Look in ***Social Trends*** and at government Websites for data on changing role of family.

Taylor *et al.* (1996) ***Sociology in Focus*** p 266 - 70

Jorgensen *et al.* (1997) ***Sociology: An interactive approach*** p 102 - 120

Marcus and Ducklin (1997) ***Success in Sociology*** p 140 - 51

Make a note of any additional sources that you have used below

Personal Development ideas

- Speak to people about their views on how and why family life has changed over the past fifty years.
- Collect statistics on the demography of countries other than Britain. You would be well advised to speak nicely to a geographer.

Overview of the debate

- How are families changing?
- Why are families changing?
- What impact will these changes have on society and on individual lives?

Revision tips

- Be sure that you can list the main social changes in the family. Take a broad view and include demographic data on aging populations and birth rate trends.
- Make certain that you have some ideas about why these changes are taking place.

What you should have in your folder when this work has been completed correctly:

- A clear explanation of each of the glossary terms
- Acceptable lesson notes.
- Evidence that you have looked at least two textbooks and collected data on family change.
- Evidence that you have downloaded information from the Internet on family changes.
- Notes listing the main demographic changes taking place in our society and suggesting both the reasons for the change taking place, and the implications for the future of our society as a result of the changes.