

# Marriage and Health

## Sociology skills

- Analysis of a table
- Evaluation of evidence

## Key skills

- Application of number
- Information technology

## Stimulus materials

Patients aged 16-64 consulting doctors by legal marital status.

<i>Cause of consultation with doctor</i>	<i>gender</i>	<i>married</i>	<i>divorced</i>
diseases of blood	m	97	135
	f	104	98
mental disorders	m	83	190
	f	91	151
symptoms, signs and ill defined conditions	m	97	129
	f	98	120

source adapted from McAllister, Fiona *Marital Breakdown and the health of the Nation* (1995:8)

## Understanding the stimulus

1. Who wrote the book from which this data was taken?
2. How many divorced men visited their doctors to report mental ill health?
3. How many married men consulted their doctors to report mental ill health.
4. Are males or females more likely to consult a doctor?
5. Who is more likely to consult a doctor, married or divorced people?
6. Suggest three reasons to explain your answer to question 5 above.
7. Is a high divorce rate a problem for the country? Use data from this table and your own general knowledge to support your answer.
8. Create graphs to display this data in a visual form. You may use Excel or a data processing programme if you wish.

## Development and Revision

1. Use the internet to find out as much data as possible to show how divorce can affect people's personal lives - look for positive and negative information about divorce.
2. What social factors have made divorce more common in Britain since the end of World War 2.
3. On what grounds can people divorce each other? See if you can find this out by looking on the Internet or talking to the Citizen's Advice Bureau.