

2016 Section B Q5

(a). Analyse the social and economic changes that affect contemporary families

Social:

Divorce/Separation – Nowadays it is more socially acceptable to divorce and separate than before. As a result, there is an increase in blended and one parent families.

Educated Women – Women now have an equal opportunity in education thus improving their career opportunities. This results in smaller family sizes as the women also want to focus and build their career.

Equal Roles – Today both men and women share the roles at home. Houses are now less segregated as usually both parents work, therefore both share the housework etc. This is a big change from the contemporary family roles of the wife staying home to clean and mind the children while the husband worked.

Economic:

High cost of living – There has been an increase in the cost of living resulting in both parents having to work for a dual income. This also results in smaller family sizes as it is too expensive to raise many kids.

High childcare cost – In some families the father stays at home to mind the children as childcare cost has increased and the women's income is higher. This is a change from before as the men were always the breadwinners. In other homes the grandparents may help out with childminding to help financially.

(b) Explain how the family can meet the physical and psychological needs of children so that they can contribute to and succeed in a rapidly changing society

Physical:

Shelter – Parents must provide a place for the child to call home. Somewhere that is warm, where they can rest and play like normal children. This will allow them to mature properly in society.

Food – Parents need to supply food for their kids to get the right nutrients and be healthy. It is their responsibility to make sure their child has a balanced diet so that they grow up to be healthy and strong.

Clothes – Parents must provide adequate clothing for their children in order to protect them as well as to fit into society.

Psychological:

Love – Parents should show love and affection for their children so that they will mature and imitate this in their relationships as adults.

Encouragement – Parents should encourage and show interest to boost their child's confidence and self-esteem in what they do in society.

Trust and security – It's important for a child to have someone that protects them and is always there for them. This allows them to be open and trust in people.

(c) Discuss the challenges that may be experienced by the parents of a child with special needs.

Having a child with special needs is challenging as one parent may have to give up their job to care for their child. This would be difficult as it is a demanding role to assist 24/7 but it's also giving up a second income.

It may be difficult if there are more children in the family. The parents would want to distribute their time equally between all their children but the child with special needs often requires the most attention.

Another challenge is modifying the home to cater for the child's needs. This may cost a lot of money or take a lot of work and time.