

2011 Section B Q5

(a) Define the term family and explain what is understood by the universality of the family.

A group of people related by blood, marriage or adoption.

Family is the basic unit of society.

Universality: Family is present in every society and culture. While societies may hold different views about family, the idea of family is the same everywhere.

(b) Discuss the roles and responsibilities of family members and explain how these roles change through the life cycle of the family.

The role and responsibilities of young children in a family is to behave in a good manner of which they learn from older family members. They are to show respect to others and behave in a socially acceptable way. They copy other family members' actions therefore they should be shown good examples.

As the young children grow older into adolescents, they may have a role and responsibility of looking after younger siblings. They should lead with good examples and help them with school work. They are old enough to have a say in decision making but should also show respect and obey any house rules. They have more independence but shouldn't take advantage of it.

Parents have the role and responsibility to support the home financially by earning an income or making sure they have enough money for at least the basic necessities. They are also the primary educators of the children so therefore should be teaching children basic education and speaking. Parents, as well as looking after their children, may take care of their parents as they are elderly and not as mobile or capable of doing everything themselves e.g. doing the grocery shopping.

Grandparents sometimes help financially as the cost of living and cost of childcare has increased. They may also mind their grandchildren while parents are working as childcare cost is high and they are generally able to because of medication and life expectancy increasing.

(c) Give an account of four factors that enable older people to maintain their independence

Free travel for the elderly maintains their independence as they can travel to see family and friends or to shops when they want. This means that they don't have to keep driving at an old age or rely on family members or friends for lifts.

Sheltered housing schemes help their independence as they have their own space and independence but in a place that is secure and that has staff as they can't do everything e.g. nursing homes, meals prepared.

Voluntary services e.g. meals on wheels allow older people to maintain good nutrition and health without feeling that they're a burden on family but still being able to live at home.

Public health services e.g. public health nurses help keep older people living at home by calling to their homes to do check-ups and dressing wounds so they don't have to take them into the hospital care.