

Teacher guide and answers

AQA A Level Sociology 7192 • L018 • 90 minutes • v1.0

CONNECT & CHECK | SHARE | PRESENT | APPLY | RECALL & REVIEW

Purpose and curriculum position

Why has marriage changed?

Extend L017's distinction between prevalence and acceptance. Explain marriage patterns through norms, resources and institutional change; prepare a comparison with cohabitation in L019.

Interpret marriage measures, explain two possible causes of change and distinguish postponement from non-marriage.

Preparation and materials

Slides 1–30 total 90 minutes; slides 31–32 support optional 15-minute practice. The separate 15-mark mini-test sits outside the lesson. Supply the workbook, organiser and six-mark sheet.

Retrieve L017 using R1–R3. Read the knowledge organiser and source notes; print the case if digital access is limited.

Test local saving before teaching. Export a backup at the end. This standalone HTML file has no connected teacher dashboard or synchronised classroom control. A teacher or facilitator should lead delivery and review extended writing.

Emotional safety and access

Use the supplied fictional cases. Avoid inferring personal characteristics from appearance. No learner needs to disclose family circumstances. Offer private writing, verbal rehearsal, read-aloud prompts and a scribe where appropriate. Describe the photograph aloud. Research tasks are design exercises using supplied material, not instructions to collect personal information.

Delivery and adaptation

Minutes	Slides	Focus
0–9	1–4	Retrieve prior learning and record an initial judgement
9–23	5–10	Patterns need a denominator: concepts and mechanisms
23–34	11–14	Choice within social conditions: application and hinge check
34–41	15–18	Test explanations fairly: limits and evidence
41–60	19–23	Observe the photograph, then analyse the supplied case
60–71	24–26	Six-item retrieval; compare explanations and repair a claim
71–84	27–28	Independent six-mark response, review and improvement
84–90	29–30	Exit judgement and preparation for the next lesson

Access

Read the case aloud and offer the glossary. Begin with marriage and cohabitation. Permit verbal rehearsal or a scribe without reducing the conceptual demand.

Scaffold

Name the concept → select a precise case detail → explain the connection → state what the detail cannot establish. Rehearse aloud, then write independently.

Core

Check D4 before moving on. At A2 require a concept, an exact case detail and an explained mechanism. Distinguish description from explanation and an illustration from evidence.

Stretch

Which combination of explanations best fits the three cases, and what remains unknown? Consider an alternative explanation and the evidence that could distinguish it.

Answers for Recall and Discover

R1

Prevalence measures how common a category is; acceptance concerns judgements and treatment.

R2

It records a current arrangement rather than all earlier and later transitions.

R3

A reasoned initial response should identify the claim and avoid unsupported generalisation. Revisit after the evidence and theory work.

D1

It combines marriages and civil partnership formations in England and Wales during 2023.

D2

It relates events to a specified population, allowing comparison that takes population size into account. Composition can still differ.

D3

Saving for accommodation or a ceremony may compete with available income. This could delay timing without removing commitment or a wish to marry.

D4

If religious rules have less influence, living together without marrying may carry less normative pressure. Attitude and behaviour evidence are needed to test that mechanism.

D5

The person may marry later. A current status does not establish a complete life course.

D6

Compare interviews about decisions with longitudinal evidence on income, housing and later transitions. Seek contrasting cases and allow both mechanisms to operate.

Answers for Apply and Challenge

A1

Adults are examining materials together. The image does not establish family ties, beliefs, gender identity or the reasons for their actions. Use participant accounts or relevant contextual evidence before applying the theory.

A2

Rowan and Jules illustrate postponement linked to resources; Priya and Ellis describe a current alternative. Neither account establishes a rejection of commitment.

A3

A delayed ceremony can move an event between years without a corresponding change in the value placed on marriage. Annual counts need their historical context.

C1

Resources, meanings and disruption explain different stated processes. Their relative importance in the wider population requires representative and longitudinal evidence.

C2

A fall in events may reflect timing, alternatives or population change. Commitment is a separate concept requiring evidence about relationships and meanings.

Retrieval answers

Q1 A: Marriage: A legally recognised partnership with socially defined expectations. Q2 B: Postponement: Moving an event to a later point in the life course. Q3 C: Individualisation: Greater expectation that people construct their own life choices, within unequal conditions. Q4 A: Cohort: People sharing a starting event or historical period, such as birth years. Q5 B: Their stated reason concerns timing and resources; lifetime intentions remain open. Explain why the alternative claim is not justified by the supplied evidence. Q6 B: It illustrates a possible mechanism. Population frequency and causation require appropriate research evidence.

Answers for Prove and preparation

P1

See teacher-only guidance.

P2

Develop two distinct points. For each, identify the concept, explain how it works and use an accurate example or comparison relevant to the question.

P3

Reconsider the initial claim using accurate concepts and the limits of the supplied evidence. A fall in events may reflect timing, alternatives or population change. Commitment is a separate concept requiring evidence about relationships and meanings.

F1

It may be a stage before marriage or a preferred continuing alternative. Other accurate meanings include a practical response to current circumstances.

F2

Living together as a couple without being married or civil partnered to each other. Accept a fitting example.

F3

Identify a relevant source, its population or context and the claim it could test. It may be a stage before marriage or a preferred continuing alternative. Other accurate meanings include a practical response to current circumstances.

Content checks and sources

ONS 2023 England and Wales release dated 18 November 2025: 231,949 combines marriages and civil partnerships; 253,776 is the corresponding 2022 total. Opposite-sex marriage rates for men: 18.1 in 2023 and 20.3 in 2022 per 1,000 unmarried men. The ONS denominator includes adults not in a legal partnership, including previously married people; do not label it never-married men or first-marriage risk. Do not treat one annual fall as a lifetime trend. The figures cover events in England and Wales, not all UK residents. Pandemic disruption affects timing. Proposed mechanisms are not established causes in the fictional cases.

All fictional cases, questions and models are original. Source and assessment-format checks: 27 September 2026.

AQA A Level 7192: Families and Households

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/a-level/sociology-7192/specification/subject-content/topics-in-sociology>

ONS: Marriages and civil partnerships, England and Wales 2023

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/marriagecohabitationandcivilpartnerships/bulletins/marriagesinenglandandwalesprovisional/2023>

Giddens: The Transformation of Intimacy

<https://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=2665>

AQA Paper 2 specimen assessment format

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/sociology/AQA-71922-SMS.PDF>