

Ten mark assessment guidance

AQA A Level Sociology 7192 • Families & Households • L019 • v1.0

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

Outline and explain two reasons why some couples may choose cohabitation rather than marriage. [10 marks]

Original Paper 2-style practice. Question ID: RFTS-AQA-AL-SOC-7192-FAM-L019-Q002. Local best-fit guidance; not an official or endorsed AQA mark scheme.

Assessment focus

Develop two distinct explanations that answer the exact question. Apply concepts accurately and explain each connection rather than listing names or examples. Reward accurate knowledge, application and analysis. No separate introduction, conclusion or evaluation paragraph is required.

Marks	Best fit characteristics
8–10	Accurate, detailed knowledge. Two distinct ways or reasons applied to the question, with sustained explanation of how each operates.
4–7	Some accurate knowledge and relevant application. Two explanations may be uneven, or only one developed. Links to the question are partly explained.
1–3	Limited relevant knowledge. Assertions or examples dominate, with little explanation of the process relevant to the question.
0	No relevant creditworthy material.

Read the whole response and choose the closest band, then a mark reflecting precision and development. One developed explanation cannot enter 8–10. Do not give fixed marks per paragraph.

Model and feedback

Changing norms may make cohabitation an acceptable continuing relationship. Where partners and their social networks do not regard a wedding as necessary to demonstrate commitment, they may establish shared care and responsibilities without marrying. This gives meaning to cohabitation as an alternative rather than an incomplete stage, although acceptance can vary between settings.

Practical circumstances may make cohabitation feasible while a desired marriage is delayed. A couple managing insecure work and housing costs may share accommodation and pool resources before arranging a ceremony. The decision combines action with constraint: it may reflect the options currently available rather than a permanent rejection of marriage. A life-course approach can distinguish those possibilities.

Indicative judgement

The two paragraphs develop different mechanisms or reasons, apply them to the question and explain their implications. Accept other accurate, developed approaches; these models are not the only creditworthy answers. This illustrates the top band; the exact mark depends on the complete response.

Improvement target

Underline the two distinct points. Circle each case or example and add the missing “because” or “therefore” link. Check that the response answers the stem and does not turn an illustrative case into a population claim.

Alignment source

AQA Paper 2 specimen scheme: outline-and-explain format and level-based approach. Questions and models are original. <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/sociology/AQA-71922-SMS.PDF>