

some interesting facts about divorce

divorce rates have increased over the last 40-50 years

divorces in 2012 were 6 times higher than 1961

42% of marriages end in divorce

serial monogamy is now taking place at a higher rate - divorcing and remarrying different partners

more couples are choosing to cohabit rather than marry

65% of divorce applications comes from women - most common reason is the uncommon behaviour of her husband

couples who are more likely to divorce - those who marry young, have a child before marriage, those who cohabit before marriage, when one or both people have been married before

key words

divorce - legal ending of a marriage gone through court

Personal life perspective

Divorce can cause many difficulties such as financial problems (especially for women)

Smart - divorce has become **'normalised'**

We now see divorce as being positive **'one transition amongst others in the life source'**

Marxist

Disrupts society and family structure

Has a negative impact on males as being breadwinners

Wouldn't take into account the female perspective

personal life expectancy

interactionism

5 non-theoretical reasons for divorce

changes in law in 2022 the law changed so couples can get married without giving a reason making it easier to divorce

equalising the ground - women can also file for divorce **62% of divorces were filed by women**

making divorce cheaper so everyone can afford it but it still costs to try and discourage divorce

decline stigma and changing attitudes becoming more common - around 50% of couples in Western culture have gotten divorced

more socially acceptable - people aren't looked down upon making people less anxious about getting a divorce

secularisation (society turns away from religious values) religion is losing its power and influence over people as modern society is becoming less religious

rising expectations of marriage people expectations of marriage being really romantic is the leading cause of divorce

5 non-theoretical reasons for divorce (cont)

social media has set unrealistic expectations of a happy perfect marriage making people compare their lives to social media and therefore become unhappy and get a divorce in hope of getting happier

woman's increased financial independence women working in 1971 - **53%**

women working in 2013 - **67%**

girls normally do better in school than boys meaning girls leave school with higher grades giving them access to higher paying jobs

the idea of men going to work and women being housewives is disappearing as women are able to earn equal to or more than men making them financially stable on their own and not need a man for support

1950s marriages

some people had little choice over who they married

marriages were often based around economic factors

romance was a 'bonus' not an exception. it was not something marriages should be based upon

high divorce

The meaning of high divorce

The new right - **undesireable**

Undermines the traditional nuclear family

Creates an underclass of welfare dependant female lone parents

Leaves young boys without a male role model

Feminists - high divorce

High divorce - **desirable**

Women's liberation

Women are breaking free of the oppression of the patriarchal nuclear family

Postmodernists - high divorce

Gives people freedom to choose what they want

Creates greater family diversity

Functionalists - high divorce

High divorce rate does not prove that marriage as a social institution is under threat

Just shows people high expectations

High remarriages show a commitment to marriage

Interactionists

You need to understand what divorce means to every couple

You can not generalise about the meaning divorce

Everybody has different experiences

Impact of the rise in divorce on children

Roger and Pryor (1998)

The divorce is only one factor in causing problems in children

Hetherington (2002)

For 75% of children divorce has few negative effects

Jon Bernardo's (1997)

Divorce is less damaging than a negative marriage

New right

Divorce is eroding the very fabric of society

Feminists

Divorce laws have helped women to gain freedom, independence and social equality

Rising divorce doesn't mean people are becoming anti-marriage

40% of marriages are remarriages

