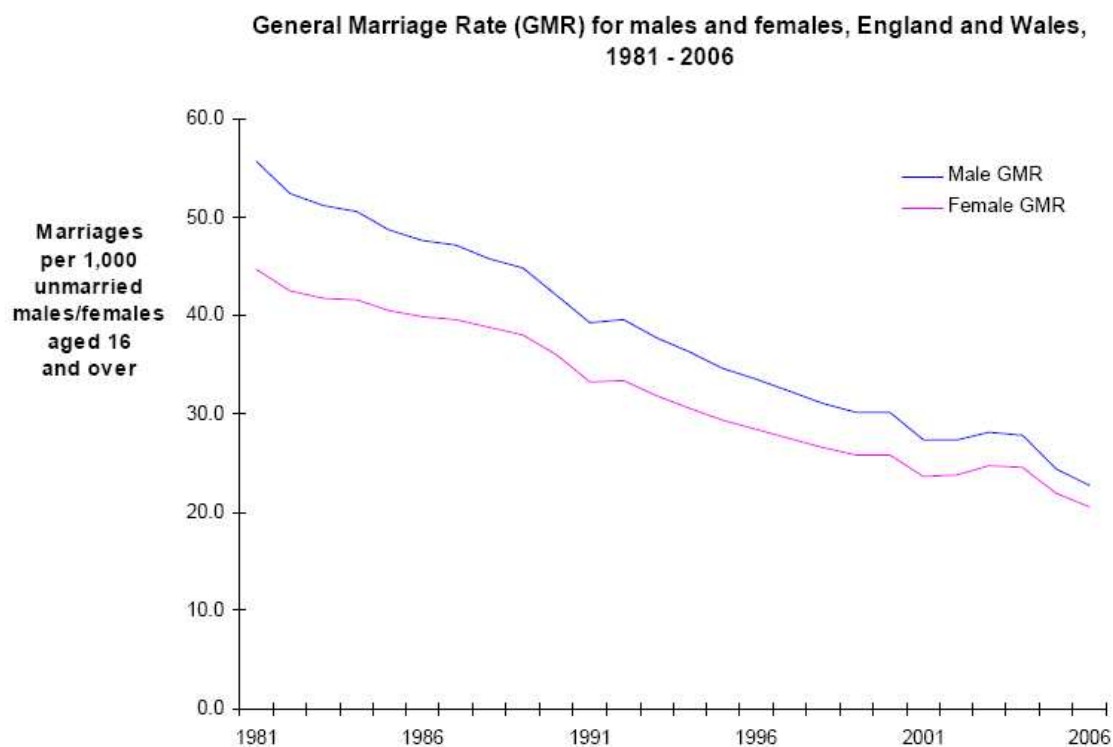


**Contemporary Society
Diagnostic Exercise
07001252**

After the Second World War, the expectation of life has increased steadily. One can say that there is no such thing as standard family¹ because through looking at the national statistics which indicates that there is an increase in the rate of divorce and also in the number of single parents leading to a decrease in marriage rates. In fact, the amount of marriage rates in Britain has dropped since 1981 to 2006. In 2006, the marriage rate for men 22.8 men marrying per 1,000 unmarried men down from 24.5 in 2005 whereas for women, down from 21.9 in 2005, the marriage rate in 2006 was 20.5 women marrying per 1,000 unmarried women.²



As the Sunday Telegraph pointed out last year (July 15, 2007),

“Over the past decade, Labor has presided over the almost total destruction of any official recognition that marriage is something to be encouraged, to the point where most official forms no longer require, indeed no longer allow, people filling them in to state whether they are married. It has become government policy to accept that co-habitation should be recognized as “just as good” and “equally as valid a choice” as marriage, and that all trace

¹ Abercrombie, N. and Warde, A., (2001) Changing Britain, in *The Contemporary British Society*, (eds), Cambridge: Policy Press, p.5

² National Statistics, News Release, (26 March 2008). Available at: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/marr0308.pdf> (Accessed: 15 October 2008)

*of stigma attached to having children out of wedlock should be removed.*³

This indicates that the British government has played a very important role in accelerating family breakdown as they have influenced many households that it is not necessary for couples to be married. Nowadays, many couples plan to have fewer children normally no more than two and some have no plan for children in their lives. This is mostly because they are trying to avoid higher expenses since technology is changing and money rate is increasing.

Overall, it is not to say that the government is the main cause of family breakdown in Britain because the institution of marriage has been steadily eroding since the early 1970s. It is also because of technology since it has affected society by giving no limit. It has created a people of instant touch of a button satisfaction with more, more and more requested. If technology had not developed as fast as it had people would spend more time interacting in 'real-time' in person. Family and Community principles would be of more value as there wouldn't be such a variety of things to seclude and distance us because of all these issues, Britain has lost its empire and what's left of its society is fading away.

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³ Flurry, S. (2008) Understand Your World. Available at:
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