

第五章 英美社会

随堂测试、习题等

1. pre-test 判断题 (共 5 题, 100 分)

- 1、The UK is a classless country.
- 2、Same-sex marriage is legal in the UK.
- 3、The USA does not have a public health care system.
- 4、State educational funding sources often favor poorer districts in the USA.
- 5、Legally sanctioned racism imposed a heavy burden on Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latin Americans.

2. **read and discuss:** choose one issue and search for more information, decide your own topic and opinions. some suggested websites for your extended reading are already listed in the files.

Issue 1: marriage equality

Marriage equality

1. Why marriage?

Why do people get married? Statistics suggest that as many as nearly 50% of marriages end in divorce. With only a 50% chance of success, why marriage? There are a variety of reasons that couples do get married. Not all of them are good reasons, but some of them can be very valid.

Some couples get married so that they can live together. Whether they themselves believe in marriage or not, some couples who want to live together get married because their families, friends, or society in general wants them to be married if they live together.

Others marry so that they can have children. Marriage is obviously not a biological requirement to have a child, but many people believe that children are better off in the world if their parents are married. Research tends to back this up, and suggests that children whose parents are married have certain advantages over those whose parents are not married.

Other people marry because of their belief system. They may have been taught (or may have come to believe on their own) that marriage is a divine creation, and that it is all a part of the deity's plan for the world that people get married, have children, and live together. For some, marriage is not just a two-way contract between husband and wife, but is rather a covenant between the couple and God.

There may be financial and practical benefits to marriage. It may help with taxes, with the logistics of a daily schedule, with income, and even with the necessity for grocery shopping. In a marriage, people are able to get help with some of life's most basic tasks.

Marriage is important to society as well. Many people believe that the so-called "nuclear family," consisting of a father, a mother, and children,

are the basic building blocks of society. It is in the family that children learn to become citizens; it is in the family that children learn about relationships; it is in the family that children learn about what is expected of them in society, how to act and how to be. Central to the nuclear family is the traditional idea of marriage, consisting of one man and one woman in a monogamous and permanent relationship.

No one in the modern age would suggest that a single-parent family is not a family. With a large number of people growing up in single-parent households, it would not be right, fair, or proper to suggest that a one-parent family cannot function and achieve the same things that a two-parent family can. However, studies do suggest that children who are raised with both a mother and a father do have certain circumstantial advantages over children raised in one-parent households.

In earlier times, marriage helped to stabilize the economics of a rural agricultural society. By having one man and one woman together with their children, a regular workforce for the farm was grown at home. In industrial society, this emphasis changed from children who contribute to the family economy to a view in which the family serves as the training ground and shelter for children, preparing them for life in the adult world.

In the modern world, marriage is no longer a situation of bondage or slavery for women, as it was in medieval times. Both men and women benefit financially as well as emotionally and spiritually from the arrangement of marriage. Some studies even suggest a link between better health and marriage. In addition, marriage is an important institution to many religions who, even though marriage is licensed by the state, nevertheless sanction marriages and perform marriage ceremonies.

2. What is marriage equality

noun

--the state of having the same rights and responsibilities of marriage as others, regardless of one's sexual orientation or gender identity.
--legal recognition of these rights: marriage equality for same-sex couples.

3. What is same-sex marriage

the practice of marriage between two men or between two women. Although same-sex marriage has been regulated through law, religion, and custom in most countries of the world, the legal and social responses have ranged from celebration on the one hand to criminalization on the other.

See more in

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/same-sex-marriage>

4. Pros and cons of marriage equality

Marriage equality has become an issue that is nearly impossible to ignore. While there are many who believe that marriage should be strictly defined as an union between a male and a female, there are others who are more liberal and do not see the harm in allowing everyone to marry as they see fit. When an issue is this complex, it begs for a closer examination, so read on to learn more about the pros and the cons.

List of Pros of Marriage Equality

--(1). Equal Rights for All

Those who are in favor of marriage equality see this decision as one that is rather easy to make. Shouldn't we want to live in a nation where all citizens have access to the same rights and privileges? Providing the same inalienable rights to all of our citizens is a goal that we should be proud to pursue.

--(2). Access to The Same Benefits

Couples who are not allowed to get married are not able to receive the same tax benefits as their straight counterparts. In many instances, an unwed couple is unable to adopt children. LGBT couples deserve to be

able to get married, adopt children and receive the same level of protection under the law as straight couples and supporters believe that it is high time these rights were granted, marriage equality being chief among them.

--(3). Decrease in Psychological Toll

Imagine if you fell in love and you were unable to marry the person or you were forced to hide the relationship because of society's stigma. It would probably take an immense psychological toll on you over the course of time, wouldn't it? We should strive to live in a world where everyone is free to be with the person that they love most.

List of Cons of Marriage Equality

--(1). Child Rearing Issues

Studies have shown that same sex marriages are not always a conducive environment in which to raise a child. While some children are able to thrive without the declaration of traditional gender roles, there are others who will suffer over the long run.

--(2). Divorce Rates Are High

Statistically, a same sex relationship is more doomed to failure than one between two members of the opposite sexes and this is without the presence of marriage. This means that the divorce rates (which are already sky high) will only continue to climb higher as same sex couples decide to dissolve their unions.

--(3). Goes Against Belief Systems

There are those who believe that their tax dollars should only be spent when the causes align with their personal belief system. For a person whose religious beliefs oppose gay marriage, seeing a same sex couple receive tax breaks and adopt children can be a very bitter pill to swallow.

5. Same-sex marriage in UK

Same-sex marriage in the United Kingdom became legal on 29 March

2014 due to the *Marriage (Same Sex Couples) act of 2013*. This act allows same-sex couples to marry in England and Wales.

See more in:

<https://www.gov.uk/marriages-civil-partnerships>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/same-sex-marriage-becomes-law>

6. Same-sex marriage in USA

On June 26, 2015, the US Supreme Court ruled that gay marriage is a right protected by the US Constitution in all 50 states. Prior to their decision, same-sex marriage was already legal in 37 states and Washington DC, but was banned in the remaining 13.

See more in:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/same-sex-marriage/United-States>

Issue 2: racial discrimination

Racial Discrimination

1 . What is racial discrimination

--- discrimination, unfair treatment or bias against someone or a group of people on the basis of their race the elimination of racial discrimination

--- Race discrimination involves treating someone (an applicant or employee) unfavorably because he/she is of a certain race or because of personal characteristics associated with race (such as hair texture, skin color, or certain facial features). Color discrimination involves treating someone unfavorably because of skin color complexion.

Race/color discrimination also can involve treating someone unfavorably because the person is married to (or associated with) a person of a certain race or color.

Discrimination can occur when the victim and the person who inflicted the discrimination are the same race or color.

See more in:

<https://www.eeoc.gov/> [USA equal employment opportunity commission]

2. racial discrimination in UK

Even though the UK is, generally speaking, home to a peaceful, diverse and enlightened society, there are some worrisome and serious divides. Read on for an overview on racism in the UK, as well as other forms of discrimination, such as homophobia and sexism.

See more in:

<https://www.internations.org/go/moving-to-the-uk/living/discrimination-and-racism-in-the-uk> [Discrimination and Racism in the UK]
<https://www.factsofworld.com/10-facts-about-racism-in-the-uk/> [10 Facts about Racism in the UK]

3. racial discrimination in USA

The US is and always has been a very multicultural country. Nevertheless, minority groups in the US are unfortunately often subject to discrimination, ranging from racist comments to violent hate crimes. This article offers information on racism, xenophobia, and homophobia in the US.

See more in:

<https://www.internations.org/go/moving-to-the-us/living/racism-and-discrimination-in-the-us> [Racism and Discrimination in the US]
<https://dgmslaw.com/race-discrimination-in-the-workplace-examples-statistics/> [race discrimination statistics in USA]

Issue 3: welfare

Welfare

1. What is welfare

Welfare is a type of government support for the citizens of that society. Welfare may be provided to people of any income level, as with social security, but it is usually intended to ensure that people can meet their basic human needs such as food and shelter. Welfare attempts to provide a minimal level of well-being, usually either a free- or a subsidized-supply of certain goods and social services, such as healthcare, education, and vocational training.

2. Welfare in UK

The welfare state of the United Kingdom comprises expenditures by the government of the United Kingdom intended to improve health, education, employment and social security. The UK system has been classified as a liberal welfare state system.

See more in

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits>
<https://www.britannica.com/place/United-Kingdom/Health-and-welfare>

3. Welfare in USA

There are six major U.S. welfare programs. They are Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs, Supplemental Security Income, Earned Income Tax Credit, and Housing Assistance. The federal government provides the funding for these programs

See more in

<https://www.usa.gov/benefits>