Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge IGCSE™

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES **0457/12**

Paper 1 Written Examination **May/June 2023**

INSERT **1 hour 15 minutes**

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INFORMATION

- This insert contains all the sources referred to in the questions.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.

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Source 1

More people are living alone in single-person households. Living alone is more common in rich industrialised countries. In Norway and Sweden, single-person households, rare a century ago, are about half of all households today. However, the trend is worldwide. Globally, the number of single-person households is higher than at any time in the past.



A household with three generations



A single-person household

Source 2

Reasons for the growth in single-person households	Increased access to higher education and university.
	Living alone is less expensive with cheaper housing in cities.
	People choosing to delay marriage and having children.
	Economic development and increasing wealth make living alone affordable.
	Greater gender equality and female employment increase the independence of women.
	Improved healthcare and people living longer.
	More freedom in personal relationships and lifestyles.

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Source 3: The number of single-person households is growing

In the past, most people lived in nuclear families with two married parents and children sharing the same household, sometimes with older generations.

However, evidence from sociological research globally shows that divorce is more common than in the past. Research also shows that in many countries more people are living together before marriage and more people are choosing not to have children than in the past.

An international research company suggested that single-person households will grow globally by 128 per cent from 2000 to 2030.

Research by Furstenberg (2019) shows how changes in family life over the past fifty years in the developed world are spreading to other nations experiencing economic development, technological change, and changes in cultural beliefs. Fifty years ago, 42 per cent of households in the United States were nuclear families; today they are just 22 per cent of households.

Diversity in family life will increase throughout the world.

Extract from a study of family trends, published in Europe, 2021

Source 4

Arthit

Wouldn't it be lonely to live on your own? If you have an accident or feel ill, who could look after you? I love being with my family, talking and sharing together, and they help me when I have a problem or feel sad.

It is risky to live alone too. In many countries access to healthcare and other social services is restricted. The family can provide for you if you are unemployed, sick or too old to look after yourself. It is not right to expect the government to look after you.

I read an article in a magazine that suggested more people living alone would create more loneliness and mental illness. This is a problem. My grandmother says that she would hate to live alone; she thinks families should care for each other, like in the past.

Malee

I really want to live on my own. I am buying an affordable apartment in the city designed for single people. I want the freedom to choose my lifestyle. I can stay in, cook what I want, or go out. Why burden someone else with my choices? I enjoy being on my own with time to relax after work.

My friend Anna has chosen to be single to pursue her career and get promotion. She thinks that long hours and dedication to work make marriage difficult for a partner.

Living alone is not the same as being lonely. A single person can have many friends. You can speak to family on social media and digital technology whenever you need them. My apartment in the city is surrounded by other people and there is a gym and a club in my block.

Research studies by psychologists from the United States in 2019 show that living alone does not cause loneliness, which proves my point!

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