



**Leaving Cert Home Economics**

**Free Notes**

**Changes Affecting Modern  
Family Structures**

## Changes Affecting Modern Family Structures:

### Social Changes:

- **Marital breakdown, divorces and children born out of marriage, one-parent families and blended families** more common.
- **Fathers are now more involved in childrearing and homemaking** and many women are the sole earner in the families.
- **Education is far more highly regarded today** than in the past – mostly only male children that availed of 3<sup>rd</sup> level and the wealthy.
- Women have a greater choice of education/ work.
- Children are now dependent on parents for longer, may live at home until later.
- Ireland has become **multi-denominational** with a greater acceptance of spiritual beliefs.
- Many **social problems** such as violence, drugs and alcohol abuse.
- Now **more common to have fewer children** due to:
  - **High cost** of living in child rearing.
  - **Increased stresses** of rearing a child.
  - Desire of parents to **follow careers**.
  - Availability of **contraception**.

### Economic Changes:

- **Increased incomes has improved standard of living.**
- Economics boom in late 20<sup>th</sup> century reduced unemployment. However **economics downturn has left many families jobless.**
- Easier access to borrowed money in boom – now many **families experiencing financial difficulties** in an effort to repay loans.
- Families are **now generally smaller, nuclear, independent economic unit** that are mobile and may migrate for employment.
- Families choosing to have **small num of kids due to childcare costs.**
- **Property prices dramatically** increased – made it very difficult to buy homes – need large mortgages.

### Technological Changes:

- Farming is more mechanised – **less jobs.**
- **Entertainment technology** e.g. PlayStations has **changes pastimes in families.**
- **Security technology** e.g. alarms are more common place in homes.
- **Development of time and energy saving equipment** means housework done much faster e.g. dishwasher.
- **Increase in social problems in families** e.g. alcohol abuse.
- **Improved worldwide communications.** Internet, mobiles etc. allow people to make contact more easily and cheaper.
- **Technology has brought with it the ability to mass produce,** which reduced the cost of many products making them more available.

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