

- **Roseneil** believes that the 'hetero norm' is increasingly breaking down, and there has been an increase in 'same sex marriages'. These 'chosen families' are legally recognised as civil partnerships.
- **Co habitation:** A growing number of couples in committed long-term relationships choose not to marry, but to 'reside together' and 'raise children together.'

There are various 'reasons' for the continuing trend towards the 'diversification of family types.'

According to **Graham Allan and Graham Crow**, there is now 'far greater diversity in people's domestic arrangements. This diversity is based upon 'increased choice.' Now one can exercise greater 'choice and personal volition' over domestic and familial arrangements. The options are no longer constrained by social convention and/or economic needs.

According to Allan and Crow, family diversity has continued and strengthened in the intervening period. Weeks et al. argue that the increasing family diversity can be seen as a part of wider 'social changes', in which we culturally prioritize 'individual choice' and the 'acceptance of diversity.'

However, according to **Robert Chester**, there is little evidence that people are choosing to live on a long-term basis in 'alternatives to the nuclear family.' According to him, some changes were occurring in the 'family life', but he did not see that as a fundamental alteration in the family. The 'new family form' was one in which 'wives have some involvement in the labour market, the 'neo conventional family'.

The different forms of family life, is thus a reflection of the changes in the structure of the family. The statistical evidence indicates increasing plurality in family forms and the variations have been understood, through the idea of choice.

### 1. (c) Religious Pluralism.

12.5

**Answer format:**

**Religious pluralism, refers to the existence of multiple religious groups and different types of religious organizations in a society.** In other words, there would be groups adhering to 'different religious tenets' and also people being members of the 'traditional conventional religion' or the 'less conventional alternatives'.

Religious pluralism, largely stems from two sources, i) **from the existence of different ethnic groups with their own religious traditions ii) and from the growth of 'new sects and cults.'**

According to **Steve Bruce**, modernization and industrialization bring with them the 'social fragmentation' of society into a 'plurality of cultural and religious groups'. Bruce believes that as a consequence the state can no longer support a 'single religion' without causing conflict.

The plurality of religions reminds individuals that their beliefs are a personal preference, and no longer part and parcel of their membership of society.

Religious Pluralism is also reflected in the popularity of **'New Religious Movements.'** According to **Rodney Stark and William Bainbridge**, the popularity of New Religious Movements is a result of conventional religions becoming somewhat weakened.

Steve Bruce, argues that **'strong religion'**, which dominates people's lives and shapes their life in profound ways, cannot be widespread in a fragmented society. Weak religion, which is more a matter of 'personal choice and does not claim to be the only legitimate religion, is more suited to 'fragmented