
Example Questions and Answers for Unit 9

Unit 9 Caring for Older People

9.2.2 Social, Emotional and Economic Aspects of Ageing

Q Describe **three** reasons why an older person could become increasingly isolated.

A:

- The older person could have mobility problems and rely on using a wheelchair to get around. This could make it difficult for them to gain access to social activities because there may not be ramp and the doorways could be too narrow.
- They may not be able to afford to go out because they are relying on a pension which does not give them the same amount of money they had when they were working.
- The older person may not have the motivation to go out and socialise because it takes a lot of effort and energy to go out and they could be feeling weak because they have breathing difficulties. The older person may not want to make their condition worse by going out.

[6 marks]

Q Evaluate the emotional impact of retirement on an older person.

At first an older person may feel happy because they have more freedom and are able to choose what they do with their time. They could feel upset because they do not see their work colleagues as much as they used to. They could feel valued if they start to do some voluntary work in the community and would have a high feel good factor because they are doing something to help others. If the people they are supporting do not appreciate their help the older person could feel resentment and not enjoy their voluntary work. If the older person does not see many people they could feel lonely and become angry with themselves because they are not able to do the things they used to. The older person could feel useless because they are no longer working and could suffer from stress or depression. The older person could see more of their family when they retire and this would give them a sense of self-worth. The older person could view retirement as the phase of their life before death and this could make them feel sad and unsure of what the future holds for them. Retirement can give an older person a mixture of emotions and it can be hard for them to cope with.

[10 marks]

Q Describe **five** reasons why older people often find it difficult to cope in their own homes.

A:

- Older people often get confused and may not remember they have done things like turn the fire off.
- Cooking can be difficult because the older person cannot grip things like a can opener and so the older person may not eat a balanced diet.
- The older person may suffer from dementia which makes them forget things like what day it is or where they are.
- Mobility difficulties can make it hard for an older person to climb the stairs so they could feel like a captive on the ground floor.
- An older person may not be able to get in and out of the bath and have to rely on a home care assistant to come in and help with their personal care which they have previously been able to do for themselves.

[10 marks]

Q Evaluate **three** positive and **three** negative effects of economic changes on an older person after they retire.

An older person could have invested for their retirement and be able to enjoy the benefits of this. They could have paid off their mortgage and therefore not have to worry about paying their mortgage repayments or paying rent. They could go on holidays because they can afford to go wherever they want. They could have insurance policies which mature and be able to enjoy this extra money by taking up a hobby they always wanted to do but did not have the time or money to do so before now.

The negative effects could be worse for someone who has not planned and saved for their retirement. They may not be able to afford to pay their bills and could get into debt. They may have to rely on benefits which are not easy for someone who has always supported themselves. If an older person has to move into residential or nursing care they may use up their savings very quickly as the rent is expensive.

[6 marks]