

Thursday 21 June 2012 – Afternoon

A2 GCE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

F924/01/CS

Social Trends

CASE STUDY

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



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TEXT 1

Since records began in the early 1970s data for the UK shows an expansion in early years education provided for children in all settings.

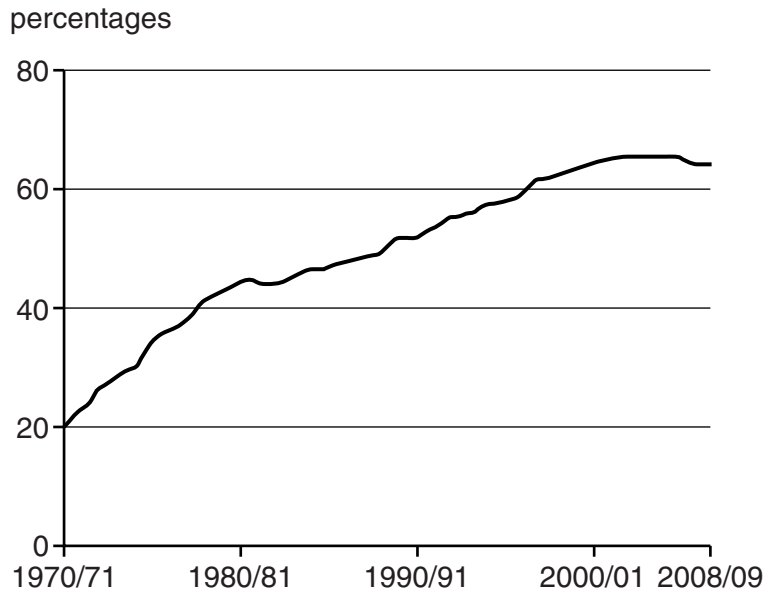
The proportion of 3 and 4 year olds enrolled in all schools in the UK rose from 21% in 1970/71 to 63% in 2008/09 down from its peak at 65% in 2004/5. This increase partly reflects the growth in the number of early years places available; 723 places in state nursery schools in the UK in 1970/71 to 3,209 in 2008/9.

Source: ONS

FIG. 1

Early years education

Children under 5 in schools



Source: ONS, DCSE

TEXT 2

Around 340,600 Britons are dependent on home carers provided by local authorities. Fears that the elderly are regularly abused by their home carers has prompted a review by the human rights watchdog.

The country's ageing population means that the number of those over 65 who require home care is expected to rise by 87% by 2051. Fewer than one in 20 of these will be in residential care – meaning that the vast majority will require home help.

Adapted from The Daily Mail, Katherine Faulkner, 17 July 2010

TEXT 3

Couples marrying now face a 45% risk of divorce, official figures reveal. The threat hits a peak in the fourth year and almost one in eight marriages is over before the fifth anniversary. Beyond that, couples enjoy a steadily increasing chance of staying together into old age.

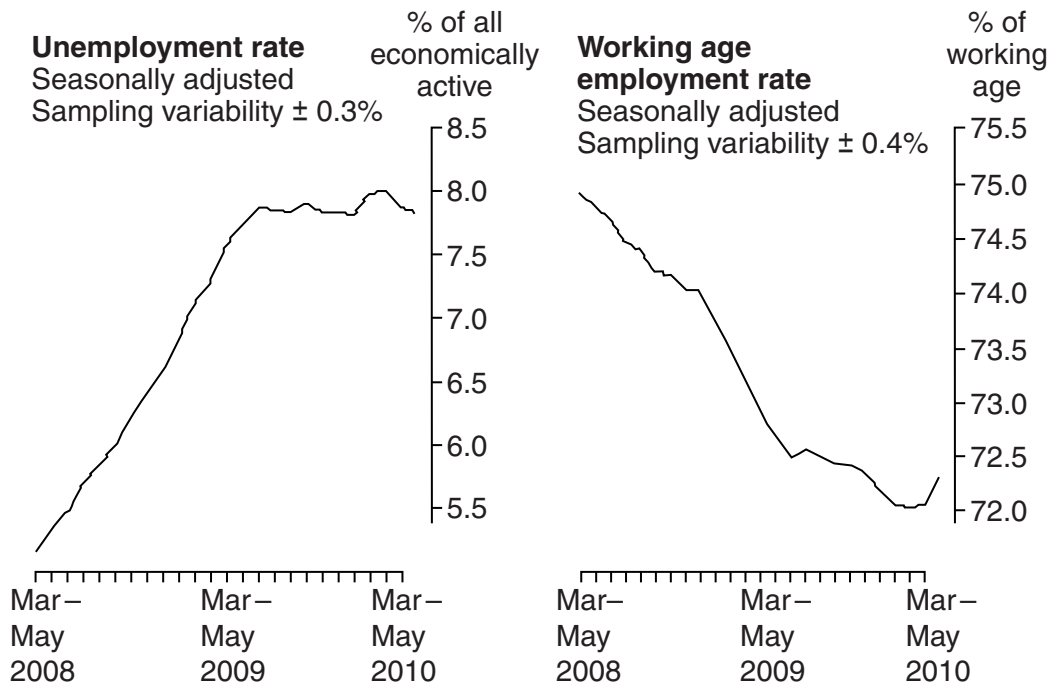
The figures chart the growing impact of divorce. In 1980 around a third of marriages finished with divorce. By 1994 the figure had risen to 41%. The latest figures show a newly-married couple have a 45% chance of divorce.

Divorce rates have been influenced over recent decades by legal reforms, in particular by the introduction of 'quickie' divorce laws in the early 1970s which led to a sharp and enduring rise.

Adapted from Daily Mail, 27 March 2008, ONS

FIG. 2

Employment Rate up to 72.3 per cent



Source: ONS JUNE 2010-07-19

TEXT 4

Unemployment benefit, now re-labelled Jobseeker's Allowance, has existed in the UK since before the First World War, when mass unemployment reared its head for the first time. Today the amount of Jobseeker's Allowance that is given out to unemployed people is dependent on how long they have been working and their circumstances.

The name change to Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) was a deliberate attempt to change the image away from the idea of a payment for being unemployed toward a payment to encourage looking for work. People who have not found a job after 6 months of JSA are likely to be re-interviewed and may be considered for the New Deal (ND) scheme. On this scheme people are assigned a personal adviser who is their main point of contact while they go through a programme of help and support that is likely to include training and preparation for work. There is a New Deal programme especially for over 50s as well.

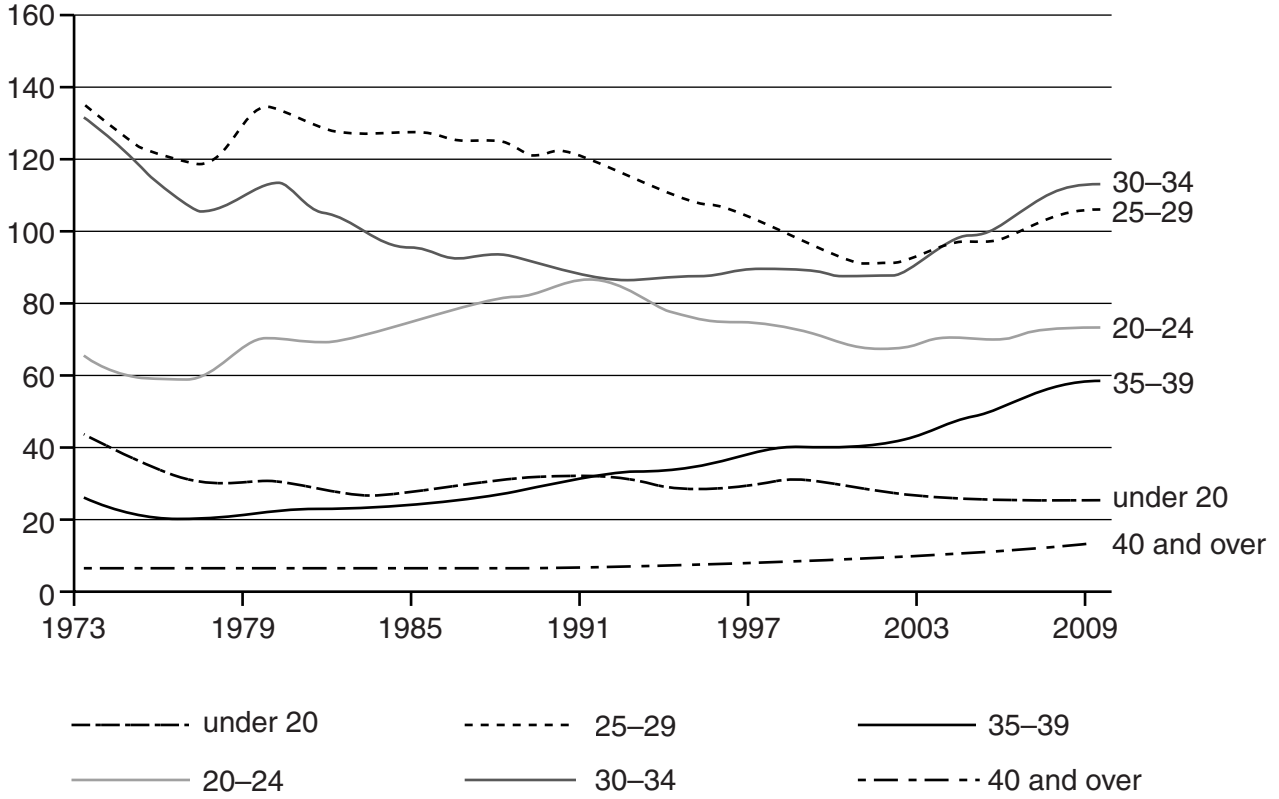
Income Support (IS) is another form of benefit available to those who are not working or are on a very low income. People who are eligible for IS are often those who are unable to work because they are disabled, caring for someone full-time or a lone parent.

Source: WorkingRights.co.uk 2010

FIG. 3

Fertility
UK fertility remains high

live births per 1000 women



Age-specific fertility rates

Source: ONS

TEXT 5

Age pattern of fertility

The last three decades have seen strong upward trends in the fertility of older women in the UK. In 2009, UK fertility rates for women aged 35–39 and 40+ continued to increase, in line with this long-term trend. However, fertility fell slightly among women aged 30–34, in contrast to recent years. Despite this fall, women in their early thirties continued to have the highest fertility of any age group.

Source: ONS online

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