

GREENHILL ACADEMY

SECONDARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORK SENIOR FIVE

Topic Girl child education in Africa

Question1

- i. Examine benefits of educating a girl child in society.
 - ii. Discuss challenges encountered in the education of girl child in Africa.
 - iii. Suggest ways of how challenges mentioned above can be reduced.
- **Please carry out thorough research before writing your essay**

Notice before

I have attached this essay to illustrate to you how GP essays are written. Carefully read and follow the same way of writing your essay.

ESSAY WRITING IN GENERAL PAPER

Style of writing essays

A candidate is required to write discursive or argumentative essays. Such essays require a candidate to use sentence structures of the passive. Such essays have the following characteristics.

- The essay must be written in paragraphs with good and complete sentences.
- Each paragraph must contain a point.
- There must be a topic sentence in this paragraph.
- The other sentence or sentences in the paragraph explain/explains the point.
- A sentence or two in this paragraph give illustration/s.

Note

Points in an essay need not be underlined or written distinctively; they are part of the paragraph and therefore part of the whole essay

Sentences in passive structure present actions and their effects, rather than the doer of the action or rather than the performer of the action. Some candidates write their essays either involving the examiner or the reader.

E.g. you see, when an earthquake occurs it will destroy the environment you can find that animals, people and vegetation will be destroyed thus affecting the environment.

When discussing, essays will require a candidate to avoid such expressions though the point is prudent. Consider this example below.

When you cut trees and you build a house or you drain the swamp you will have affected the environment. Such writing is word and time wasting.

Thus, look at this paragraph illustrated in the style called for. Our question is; “polygamy should be abolished.” Discuss.

We shall pick any three of the points already listed earlier e.g.

Point 1

Polygamy should be abolished as it is against the teachings of Christianity. In this religion a man is supposed to only have one wife especially as per the teachings of the New Testament. Thus, practicing polygamy, the second marriage would be illegal. Christians quote God giving Adam only one wife by the name of Eve, having been taken from his (Adam’s) rib. Thus, when a Christian man marries a woman, he is regaining his rib not ribs to become whole/complete again.

Note

The first sentence (topic sentence presents the point) the second and third sentences are explaining and the last sentences illustrate the point of polygamy being against Christian teaching

Point 2

Polygamous families experience or perpetuate poverty. This is because they tend to have many dependents in form of children and wives whose basic necessities have to be provided for.

Consequently, in such homes less money will be saved and invested to break the vicious circle of poverty.

1st sentence is stating the point of poverty

2nd sentence explains how poverty is perpetuated i.e. by meeting home requirements.

3rd sentence shows how poverty can't be avoided in such families.

Point 3

Polygamy may also lead to domestic violence. Because wives compete for the husband's attention and love, there could be witchcraft among the wives or even physical confrontation. Such incidents will even usurp the children to hate one another or even lead to the death of others. Or resources such as land and house property may be a cause of conflict as children and their mothers struggle for ownership of such property especially after the death of the husband/father hence fueling domestic violence.

Note

Candidates are advised ask themselves three simple questions as they write their essays:

- o Have I stated a point in the paragraph?
- o Have I explained this point well?
- o Have I illustrated this point well? Or have I given a relevant example to the explanation I have made?

Question one

"Polygamy should be abolished." Discuss.

This question requires the candidate to

- i) Give reasons for having polygamy abolished and
- ii) Give reasons why on the other hand it should be abolished.

Polygamy is a type of marriage where a man is free to have several wives; at least more than one wife (monogamy). This type of marriage is characteristic of Muslims and traditionalists whose ways of life have not been changed by Christianity or modernity. Under polygamy, all the wives are recognized and accepted though the first wives command more respect than the latter wives. Muslims who practice polygamy are not allowed more than four wives while traditional culture gives men a free way of having as many wives as they wish or can have.

This type of marriage has several disadvantages that call for its abolition. First, it is against the teachings of Christianity. In this religion, man is supposed to only have one wife more especially as per the teachings of the New Testament. Thus, practicing polygamy in Christianity, other marriages would be illegal. Christians quote God giving Adam only one wife by the name of Eve; whom they claim was taken from Adam's rib. Thus, when a Christian man marries a woman, he is reclaiming his rib not ribs.

Polygamous families perpetuate poverty. This is because they tend to have many dependents in form of children and wives whose basic needs such as shelter, food, medical, education and clothing have to be catered for. Most families end up living in abject poverty as they are unable to meet their demands. Others who may afford will have less money left to save, in order to accumulate capital for re-investment in order to break the vicious circle of poverty. Thus, abolishing polygamy would reduce on the dependence ratio enabling such families reduce on their spending hence increase on their saving- an act that would enable them to accumulate resources/capital for investment.

Some of the families where polygamy is practiced are characterized by domestic violence. For example, as wives compete for the husband's attention, favour, and love, they could practice witchcraft among themselves or even have physical confrontation. Such incidents will even usurp the children not only to hate one another but their step mothers as well. The wife, who will have lost out in this competition, will turn resentful and may even make the children hate or dislike their father. Or resources such as land, house property or family estates, may cause conflicts as children and their mothers will struggle for ownership of this property more especially after the death of their father/husband hence fueling domestic violence.

Polygamy also jeopardizes the struggle for women emancipation that advocates for women equality with men. If for example women cause of equality with men is to be achieved, then they must be on the same footing with men. This means that under normal circumstances a man should have only one woman who will be equal to him in status. Thus, polygamy tends to make women submissive to men's whims and therefore unequal to them. Besides, women in a polygamous family will waste time fighting themselves other than struggling for their total liberation or advancing their struggle for equal opportunities especially in politics and property ownership.

Members in the polygamous families especially women and children will always have inadequate love and care. Because the husband/ father has other wives and children to attend to, some may be neglected or will not be given enough time. The wives will not get satisfying time with their male partners while children may not have enough parental care. Take an incident a father having several children in different schools; he may end up not going for visitation days in some schools. Thus, such situations can only be rectified if polygamy is abolished.

Polygamy again may create bigger problems to the community or the country at large. It will lead either to population explosion or over population. Both these scenarios will put strain on the government that may not be in position to have social infrastructures to cater for such a population in providing them with social services such as medical care, education to mention but a few. Later, such a huge population will aggravate the already existing problem of unemployment in the country. This will create disgruntlement and even cause social and political tensions in the country.

Polygamy is both physically and emotionally strenuous to the man. One cannot serve two masters at a go is a proverb that suits well this situation. A man may not be in position to adequately attend to all his wives- say three of them for example meeting their conjugal rights. Besides, other requirements for these wives and children like catering for their basic needs may eventually wear down the husband/ father leading to stress of even sudden death-thus, calling for its abolition.

On the other hand, however, polygamy should not be abolished as it is a source of labour especially in rural setting where the communities' economic activities such as farming require intensive labour. A man with many children and wives will quickly prepare his gardens for planting/sowing, weeding and therefore harvesting of the crop. Any other activity that requires manual labour will be done fast.

Besides, polygamy in the traditional and Islamic setting is a source of wealth and prestige. A man with several beautiful daughters looks forward to getting either dowry or bride price when his daughters are married off especially to rich in laws. He also becomes a village celebrity as he comes to be known by many people. The more daughters he has the more his potential wealth and prestige will be. Thus, polygamy should not be abolished.

A polygamous family provides for social security. Many children will provide protection to a homestead that could be disturbed by thefts or any harm that could be inflicted to family members can easily be thwarted. Many children again help to take care of their parent (father) especially in old age when he becomes vulnerable. It is less burdensome if the children are many and therefore take turns in looking after their parent (father). Thus, this calls for polygamy not to be abolished.

Polygamy is equally vital in creating wider relations and bridging families. Traditionally some marriages were used as a sign of unity, peace and stability to a given community.

People who are related through such marriages will be less hostile to one another as they will regard themselves as in laws thus justifying the continuity of polygamous marriages.

In Islam for example polygamy is a religious virtue. The holy Qur'an for example begins by recommending men to marry two, and ends with those not in positions to sustain many wives to have only one. Other religions such the Zulu faith in South Africa equally calls for such marriages. Thus, prohibiting polygamy would be denying such people or community their religious freedom which in fact is an inherent right granted to them by God.

Polygamous marriages also help in ensuring that the women folk in community are given social security at the same time their conjugal rights are also guaranteed. In many communities women are numerically more than men. During disasters such as wars, famine, name it, the rate of men's death is greater than that of women and children. Thus, polygamous marriages help to curb social evils that would arise due to having so many women unmarried and children without parental care. Such evils include prostitution, lesbianism while children whose fathers or uncles who may have died lack someone who would take care of their upbringing especially in guiding them as a father figure.

In a fore going analysis therefore, in spite of the difficulties or problems associated with polygamy as discussed above, its contribution in ensuring unity, social harmony in community makes polygamous marriages practical and therefore unavoidable.