

Citizenship in Maths

Is marriage in decline?

Teachers' Notes

The KS4 citizenship programme of study states that all students should have opportunities to explore... the origins and implications of diversity and the changing nature of society in the UK.

The following task, outlined on the next page, should be completed by ALL students in year 10. The activity contributes to the school's citizenship delivery (as outlined above).

The task is outlined on the following student sheet and accompanying table. The data was obtained from the UK Statistics Authority website (www.statistics.gov.uk).

Follow-up work (possible homework task)

Students could use the worksheet, "Tying the Knot", to explore other data on marriage. Alternatively they could search for relevant marriage data on the UK Statistics Authority website (<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/glance/>). Possible questions that students could attempt to answer are

- How has the age of first marriage changed over time?
- Do men marry at roughly the same age as women?
- Has there been a change in where weddings have taken place?

Students could write an article discussing their findings.

Citizenship in Maths

Is marriage in decline?

The table below shows the number of marriages (rounded to the nearest thousand) taking place in England and Wales in each quarter between 1995 and 2002.

| Year | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|------|----|----|-----|----|
| 1995 | 34 | 81 | 120 | 48 |
| 1996 | 36 | 81 | 114 | 48 |
| 1997 | 35 | 77 | 113 | 48 |
| 1998 | 33 | 75 | 110 | 49 |
| 1999 | 32 | 73 | 109 | 48 |
| 2000 | 31 | 74 | 117 | 46 |
| 2001 | 29 | 71 | 105 | 44 |
| 2002 | 32 | 71 | 106 | 47 |

- Show the number of marriages in each quarter on a time series graph. Write down anything that you notice from your graph or from the data.
- Why is it sensible to work out 4-point moving averages for this data?
- The table on the following page shows some of the four-point moving averages. Fill in the remaining entries in the table.
- Plot the moving averages on your time series graph and draw in a trend line.
- Comment on the trend in the number of marriages taking place in England and Wales.



Citizenship in Maths

Is marriage in decline?

Name

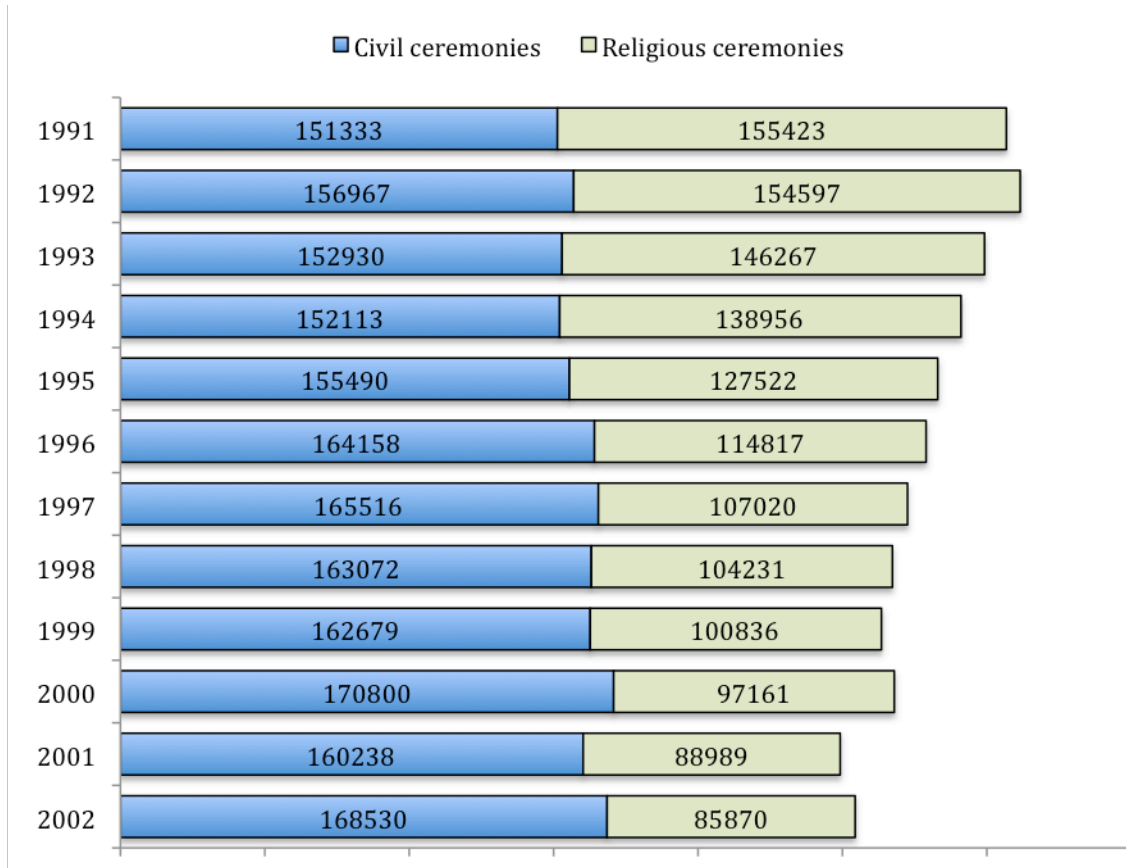
| Year and quarter | Number of marriages | Four-point moving average |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1995 Q1 | 34 | |
| 1995 Q2 | 81 | |
| 1995 Q3 | 120 | 70.75 |
| 1995 Q4 | 48 | 71.25 |
| 1996 Q1 | 36 | 71.25 |
| 1996 Q2 | 81 | 69.75 |
| 1996 Q3 | 114 | 69.75 |
| 1996 Q4 | 48 | 69.5 |
| 1997 Q1 | 35 | 68.5 |
| 1997 Q2 | 77 | 68.25 |
| 1997 Q3 | 113 | 68.25 |
| 1997 Q4 | 48 | 67.75 |
| 1998 Q1 | 33 | 67.25 |
| 1998 Q2 | 75 | 66.5 |
| 1998 Q3 | 110 | 66.75 |
| 1998 Q4 | 49 | 66.5 |
| 1999 Q1 | 32 | 66 |
| 1999 Q2 | 73 | 65.75 |
| 1999 Q3 | 109 | 65.5 |
| 1999 Q4 | 48 | 65.25 |
| 2000 Q1 | 31 | 65.5 |
| 2000 Q2 | 74 | 67.5 |
| 2000 Q3 | 117 | 67 |
| 2000 Q4 | 46 | 66.5 |
| 2001 Q1 | 29 | |
| 2001 Q2 | 71 | |
| 2001 Q3 | 105 | |
| 2001 Q4 | 44 | |
| 2002 Q1 | 32 | |
| 2002 Q2 | 71 | |
| 2002 Q3 | 106 | |
| 2002 Q4 | 47 | |

Citizenship in Maths

Tying the knot

Under the 1994 Marriage Act, venues other than register offices and religious establishments can hold weddings.

Marriages by type of ceremony, England and Wales, 1991 - 2002



UK residents marrying abroad, 1998 and 2003

