

Chapter 1 What Is a Family?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. According to the text, what is one difficulty with defining “family”?
 - a. The word always refers to people in our household.
 - b. The word always refers to the “traditional” family.
 - c. We use the word for many different things.
 - d. Not everyone has a family.

ANS: C REF: page 3

2. What does polygamy refer to?
 - a. cohabitation between unmarried individuals of the opposite sex
 - b. the marriage of one person to more than one individual of the opposite sex
 - c. a sexual relationship between people of the same gender
 - d. marriage of a woman to more than one husband

ANS: B REF: page 3

3. What is monogamy?
 - a. the practice of being married to two or more people at the same time
 - b. the practice of marriage to one person at one time
 - c. the practice of unmarried cohabitation with or without children
 - d. the practice of sharing accommodation and resources with a group

ANS: B REF: page 4

4. According to the text, which group in Canada has practised communal living?
 - a. Sikhs
 - b. Hutterites
 - c. Mormons
 - d. Chinese

ANS: B REF: page 4

5. In Canada, the legal definition of family
 - a. is embodied in federal family law.
 - b. is consistent in all human service fields.
 - c. varies by type of law and location.
 - d. is consistent across the country.

ANS: C REF: page 4-5

6. Which of the following statements is **NOT** true of the legal definition of the family in Canada?
 - a. The legal definition of the family is the same across provinces.
 - b. “Family members” are defined in a host of laws and regulations.
 - c. Official policies depend on definitions of “family.”
 - d. Legal definitions have changed through court cases.

ANS: A REF: page 5

7. Which of the following is **NOT** included in the Statistics Canada definition of “family”?
- a widowed father living with his never-married daughter
 - a brother and sister sharing an apartment
 - a 12-year-old boy living with his mother
 - a common-law couple

ANS: B REF: page 5

8. In 2005, a federal law was passed that allowed couples to enter into which one of the following types of relationships?”
- a family of procreation
 - a same-sex marriage
 - a polygamous partnership
 - a legal cohabitation

ANS: B REF: page 5

9. Cody’s parents are divorced and share custody. Which of the following is true of Cody’s situation?
- Cody has more than one procreated family.
 - Cody is still part of a nuclear family.
 - Cody has more than one family of orientation.
 - Cody has only a personal definition of “family.”

ANS: C REF: page 6

10. What does the extended family include?
- the nuclear family and other relatives
 - relatives other than members of the nuclear family
 - the legal family, as defined by Statistics Canada
 - close friends who act like family members

ANS: A REF: page 6

11. According to the text, how is membership determined in both nuclear and extended families?
- by personal beliefs about who belongs in the family
 - by household membership
 - by genetic or “blood” relationship, marriage, and adoption
 - by the federal government, so that definitions are consistent across provinces

ANS: C REF: page 6

12. Like many lesbians, Janet considers close friends in the homosexual community as family members. What type of definition of the family is she using?
- legal
 - social
 - personal
 - illegal

ANS: C REF: page 7

13. What term is used to describe a general framework of ideas that can be used to answer questions about the world?
- a macrosystem

- b. a hypothesis
- c. a theory
- d. a defining concept

ANS: C REF: page 7

14. Why is it important to study theories of the family?
- a. They provide evidence for how families function.
 - b. They help to shape government policies and methods of therapy.
 - c. “Blood” or genetic relationships are important.
 - d. Each one can provide a comprehensive explanation of family life.

ANS: B REF: page 7

15. What does the ecological theory of the family examine?
- a. the family as an institution among other institutions
 - b. power relationships within families
 - c. the balance of costs and benefits of family membership
 - d. the relationship between families and society as a whole

ANS: D REF: page 8

16. In which theory of the family are the terms “macrosystem,” “exosystem,” “mesosystem,” and “microsystem” most commonly used?
- a. ecological
 - b. systems
 - c. symbolic-interaction
 - d. conflict

ANS: A REF: page 89

17. The daycare centre where Janet takes her son opens at 8 a.m. As a result she cannot catch the 7:55 bus that will get her to her first class on time. Janet’s problem illustrates the effect of which of the following systems?
- a. the macrosystem
 - b. the mesosystem
 - c. the microsystem
 - d. the exosystem

ANS: D REF: page 9

18. Which of the following is the **BEST** example of the impact of the macrosystem on the family?
- a. beliefs about the suitable division of labour between men and women
 - b. the rules of operation of a school or a daycare centre
 - c. daily chores shared by working parents and their children
 - d. the cooperation between the family and the school to meet a child’s needs

ANS: A REF: page 9-10

19. According to the text, what is the main strength of the ecological theory?
- a. its basis for shaping social policies
 - b. its explanations of how society and family interact
 - c. its exploration of how family members influence each other
 - d. its ability to explain change that occurs in society as a whole

ANS: B REF: page 10

20. Which one of the following is an example of a micro theory?
- family systems theory
 - structural-functional theory
 - conflict theory
 - exchange theory

ANS: D REF: page 10

21. What is a family, according to the structural-functional view of the family?
- a system of individuals bargaining for their rights
 - the source of role theory and role strain
 - an institution among other institutions in society
 - the basis of power relationships in society

ANS: C REF: page 10

22. Which of the following is **NOT** a function of the family, according to the structural-functional theory?
- to transmit characteristics such as ethnicity and religion.
 - to give members the opportunities to try out different roles and statuses
 - to provide physical protection and emotional support for each member.
 - to socialize new individuals to take their place in society.

ANS: B REF: page 10

23. According to the text, what does “norm” refer to?
- a way of behaving that is typical of a certain group
 - social principles accepted by groups within society
 - the basic knowledge of a culture’s way of doing things
 - a position that carries a set of expectations about behaviour

ANS: A REF: page 11

24. Jason’s classmates think he is odd because at age 19 he still cannot drive a car. What might their thinking reflect?
- a status in our society
 - an obligation in our society
 - a role in our society
 - a norm in our society

ANS: D REF: page 11

25. According to the text, what is a status?
- an imaginary line marking who belongs to a family system
 - a way of behaving that is typical of a certain group
 - a social position that carries a set of expectations about behaviour
 - a cultural rule that tells us what, where, when, how, and why we should do something

ANS: C REF: page 11

26. According to the text, what is the structural-functional view of the family often associated with?
- the “traditional” family
 - the feminist movement
 - decision-making in families

d. the meaning of family behaviour

ANS: A REF: page 11

27. Which of the following is **NOT** considered a weakness of the structural-functional view of the family?
- its intolerance of differences from “the standard North American family”
 - its lack of attention concerning topics such as family violence and sexual abuse
 - its tendency to assume that society has one set of norms and values
 - its explanation of how the family contributes to society as a whole

ANS: D REF: page 11

28. According to the text, which one of the following theories has most influenced social policies in the past?
- developmental
 - structural-functional
 - symbolic-interactionist
 - ecological

ANS: B REF: page 12

29. According to the text, which one of the following theories is particularly concerned with power relationships?
- family systems theories
 - conflict theories
 - developmental theories
 - exchange theories

ANS: B REF: page 12-13

30. According to the text, why do feminist thinkers criticize structural-functionalism?
- for blaming the victim of domestic violence for her own misfortune
 - for considering the man as the natural head of the family
 - for emphasizing the individual’s responsibility in shaping a world view
 - for providing a model that real families do not fit

ANS: B REF: page 13

31. Michael points out that, although Patti has as much education as he does, she gets lower pay because she does “women’s work” in a daycare centre. With which view of family life does Michael’s statement agree?
- developmental
 - interactionist
 - exchange
 - feminist

ANS: D REF: page 13

32. According to conflict theories, why do families and society change?
- as a result of the vicious cycle of morphogenesis
 - as a result of changes in the meanings found in the situation
 - as a result of shifts in the balance of power
 - as a result of the pressure of developmental tasks

ANS: C REF: page 13

33. Which statement is **NOT** true of a family system?
- It contains a set of interrelated and interacting parts.
 - There is a complementarity of roles.
 - Membership is marked by boundaries.
 - There is constant change in role formation.

ANS: D REF: page 14

34. Which of the following describes a belief of family systems theory?
- Problems of one member of the family will affect all other members.
 - Power in the family is usually exercised by men.
 - The family is the main vehicle for passing on norms and values.
 - Each member in the system must accomplish certain developmental tasks.

ANS: A REF: page 14

35. Most families operate in much the same way from day to day. According to the text, what is this called?
- morphogenesis
 - monolithic bias
 - steady state
 - explicit and implicit rules

ANS: C REF: page 15

36. When a therapist talks about family rules, according to the text, what type of approach to the family is he or she probably using?
- systems
 - developmental
 - exchange
 - feminist

ANS: A REF: page 14

37. Marta and Jon praise their daughter, Kayla, when she picks up her toys. What are they using?
- positive feedback
 - role fulfillment
 - problem solving
 - family rituals

ANS: A REF: page 15

38. Recently the fights between Jennifer and her parents have been escalating. According to the text, what is this pattern called?
- morphogenesis
 - a negative feedback cycle
 - a vicious cycle
 - disengagement

ANS: C REF: page 15

39. What does “morphogenesis” refer to?
- negative feedback and vicious cycles
 - the development of new forms of behaviour

- c. boundaries of systems and subsystems
- d. changes in explicit and implicit rules

ANS: B REF: page 14

40. According to the text, which of the following is the main strength of family-systems theory?
- a. the emphasis it places on the individual's responsibility in shaping his or her view of the world
 - b. its explanations of how the family is related to other institutions and contributes to society as a whole
 - c. its assumption that all destructive behaviour is the result of a vicious cycle
 - d. its ability to account for the impact of the behaviour of one individual on all members of the family

ANS: D REF: page 15

41. According to the text, which of the following is one criticism of family systems theory?
- a. It does not account for the influence of one family member on the entire family.
 - b. It overemphasizes the varied experience of individual family members.
 - c. It makes little or no reference to important social influences.
 - d. It does not explain why behaviour continues in destructive patterns.

ANS: C REF: page 15

42. On which of the following theories is the statement, "What you believe affects what you do" based?
- a. family systems theory
 - b. developmental theory
 - c. symbolic-interaction theory
 - d. structural-functional theory

ANS: C REF: page 15

43. According to which one of the following theories do individuals develop a sense of self through the attitudes of others and through relationships with parents, peers, and other people important to them?
- a. developmental
 - b. role
 - c. exchange
 - d. imaging

ANS: B REF: page 16

44. According to exchange theory, how can much of family life be viewed?
- a. in terms of norms and values
 - b. in terms of ambiguity and boundaries
 - c. in terms of costs and benefits
 - d. in terms of roles and interpretations

ANS: C REF: page 16

45. Markus earns twice as much as his wife, Nicola. Although they work similar hours, Markus expects Nicola to do most of the housework because he brings in more money. What is his attitude an example of?
- a. functionalism
 - b. systems operation
 - c. symbolic meaning

d. exchange values

ANS: D REF: page 16

46. According to developmental theory, which of the following are **TRUE**?
- Families make decisions based on costs and benefits.
 - Families change through the process of morphogenesis.
 - Families provide the rules that tell us what, where, how, when and why to act.
 - Families change in predictable ways at each life stage.

ANS: D REF: page 17

47. Luc and Nancy have just become parents. According to developmental theory, what must they now do?
- match the social time clock
 - prepare to transmit norms and rules to their offspring
 - adjust their family arrangements to meet the needs of the baby
 - use the “album” approach to their family

ANS: C REF: page 17

48. According to the text, what does the social time clock refer to?
- the time crunch many working parents face
 - a socially approved schedule for life events
 - concepts of developmental theory
 - the day-to-day schedule followed by families

ANS: B REF: page 17

49. According to the text, which of the following is **NOT** a criticism of developmental theory?
- It allows researchers to compare family life in different cultures.
 - It overlooks grandparent–grandchild relationships.
 - It depends on the concept of the nuclear family.
 - It provides a form of lock-step that real families do not fit.

ANS: A REF: page 17-19

50. According to the text, in what way are structural-functional and conflict theories similar?
- Both focus on the ways families change over time.
 - Both focus on power dynamics in families
 - Both are macro theories of the family.
 - Both are economic models of the family.

ANS: C REF: page 10

51. Which form of research presents information in the form of numbers?
- qualitative research
 - survey research
 - quantitative research
 - longitudinal research

ANS: C REF: page 19

52. Which of the following is one of the most important organizations conducting survey research in Canada?
- Maclean's* magazine

- b. Statistics Canada
- c. Pew Research Center
- d. Corrections Canada

ANS: B REF: page 20

53. John is a researcher interested in learning people's opinions about roles in marriage. He mails a questionnaire to a carefully selected group of people. What research method is he using?
- a. a survey
 - b. a cohort
 - c. a correlation
 - d. an observation

ANS: A REF: page 20

54. According to the text, what is probably the most common form of qualitative research?
- a. an in-depth interview
 - b. an experiment
 - c. direct observation
 - d. a focus group

ANS: A REF: page 21

55. According to the text, researchers in one study videotaped conversations between married couples. They found that couples who had miserable smiles and showed disgust were more likely to later separate. What form of research is this?
- a. interview
 - b. observation
 - c. documentary research
 - d. cross-sectional research

ANS: B REF: page 21

56. According to the text, what is one of the most common forms of statistical analysis?
- a. cross-sectioning
 - b. cohort analysis
 - c. correlation
 - d. quantitative research

ANS: C REF: page 21

57. Which of the following statements is **NOT** true of correlations?
- a. Correlations attempt to find a relationship between two or more factors.
 - b. Correlations are one of most common forms of statistical analysis.
 - c. Correlations are often used in quantitative research.
 - d. Correlations can prove that one factor caused another.

ANS: D REF: page 21

58. Mariellen is comparing how mothers discipline children aged one, five, and nine years of age. What is she probably conducting?
- a. cohort research
 - b. cross-sectional research
 - c. longitudinal research
 - d. experiments

ANS: B

REF: page 22

59. What does longitudinal research involve?
- comparing individuals of different ages in relation to a particular factor
 - looking at how people of different cohorts differ in attitudes
 - following the same individuals over a period of time
 - reporting on the researchers' experiences when they take part in people's activities

ANS: C

REF: page 22

60. Which of the following **BEST** describes research results?
- They are impartial because they are arrived at by the scientific method.
 - They would be the same no matter what theoretical approach the researcher uses.
 - They do not really reflect variations among families in Canada.
 - They depend on the questions dictated by the theoretical approach.

ANS: D

REF: page 22

COMPLETION

1. A(n) _____ refers to people who occupy the same dwelling.

ANS: household

REF: page 4

2. The Hutterites are one group in Canada who organize their lifestyle around _____. That is, they share financial resources, work assignments, and meals with the whole group.

ANS: communal living

REF: page 4

3. A(n) _____ consists of the relationships between two or more microsystems.

ANS: mesosystem

REF: page 9

4. The process by which new individuals are shaped to become functioning members of society is called _____.

ANS: socialization

REF: page 10

5. According to structural-functional theory, a(n) _____ is a social position that carries expectations regarding acceptable behaviour.

ANS: status

REF: page 11

6. _____ thinkers state that family relations are usually based on the power and authority of men.

ANS: Feminist

REF: page 13

7. The _____ theory looks at meanings family members see in each other's words and actions.

ANS: symbolic-interaction

REF: page 15

8. _____ theorists look at the entire family life cycle from its formation to its end.

ANS: Developmental

REF: page 17

9. A research method in which the researcher watches and records behaviour is called _____.

ANS: direct observation

REF: page 21

10. A(n) _____ reflects the characteristics or attitudes that result from the period in history in which people have lived.

ANS: cohort effect

REF: page 22

SHORT ANSWER

1. State the difference between legal and social definitions of the family.

ANS:

Responses will vary.

2. State the difference between the nuclear and extended family.

ANS:

Responses will vary.

3. Briefly explain why structural-functional theory has been important for our society.

ANS:

Responses will vary.

4. Give one advantage and one disadvantage of symbolic-interaction theory.

ANS:
Responses will vary.

5. Give one advantage and one disadvantage of the exchange theory of the family.

ANS:
Responses will vary.

6. Define “family boundary” and state its importance.

ANS:
Responses will vary.

7. Define “developmental task” and state its importance.

ANS:
Responses will vary.

8. Define “social time clock” and explain its significance.

ANS:
Responses will vary.

9. State the difference between qualitative and quantitative research.

ANS:
Responses will vary.

10. Explain the difference between longitudinal and cross-sectional research methods.

ANS:
Responses will vary.

ESSAY

1. Giving examples, explain why the definition used for the family is important to families themselves.

ANS:
Responses will vary.

2. Giving examples, explain why the definition of the family is important for social service providers.

ANS:
Responses will vary.

3. Compare and contrast the ecological and systems theories of the family.

ANS:
Responses will vary.

4. Compare and contrast the structural-functional and conflict theories of the family.

ANS:

Responses will vary.

5. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the developmental theory of the family.

ANS:

Responses will vary.

6. Briefly describe three ways researchers study the family and state the advantages and disadvantages of each method.

ANS:

Responses will vary.