

Chapter 1—Families and Family-Like Relationships: Definitions, Theories, and Research

Multiple Choice Questions

- 1) Which of the following statements about Canadian families is correct?
- A) Family life is not very important to Canadians.
 - B) Families are valued because they provide economic and emotional benefits.
 - C) Family relations are decreasing in importance.
 - D) Young people value family life less than older people.
 - E) Older people are rejecting traditional family life.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 2

- 2) Which of the following is cited as evidence that the family is in trouble?
- A) An increasing divorce rate
 - B) Same sex marriage
 - C) Women delaying marriage and childbearing
 - D) Low fertility rate
 - E) More women in the paid workforce

Answer: A

Page Ref: 2

- 3) Which of the following are Murdock's three basic relationships of family?
- A) Blood relatives, socialization, and economic dependency
 - B) Co-residence, economic cooperation, reproduction
 - C) Communal living, social roles, power
 - D) Cohabitation, economic independence, trust
 - E) Equality, defined roles, financial independence

Answer: B

Page Ref: 4

- 4) The benchmark definition of the family used by sociologists for many years was formulated by
- A) Durkheim
 - B) Marx and Engels
 - C) Murdock
 - D) Malinowski
 - E) Census Canada

Answer: C
Page Ref: 4

- 5) Which of the following is a criterion of Murdock's (1949) definition of the family?
- A) Dependency
 - B) Co—residence
 - C) Reciprocity
 - D) Communication
 - E) Love

Answer: B
Page Ref: 4

- 6) Based on Murdock's (1949) definition, which of the following is considered a family?
- A) Siblings sharing an apartment
 - B) A single parent with two children
 - C) A same—sex couple
 - D) A married couple with no children
 - E) None of the above are considered families

Answer: E
Page Ref: 4

- 7) Murdock's (1949) definition of the family is insufficient primarily because
- A) it fails to allow for the variability found among families today
 - B) it ignores the importance of economic co-operation
 - C) it places too much emphasis on co—residence
 - D) it has never been recognized by sociologists
 - E) it does not acknowledge the importance of love in relationships

Answer: A
Page Ref: 4

- 8) The census family definition is
- A) the definition preferred by all family sociologists
 - B) a process-based approach to defining the family
 - C) more inclusive than the Murdock (1949) approach
 - D) less inclusive than the Murdock (1949) approach
 - E) more inclusive than the “household” definition of families

Answer: C
Page Ref: 4

- 9) Which of the following groups would be excluded from Statistics Canada's (2006) definition of family?
- A) A same—sex common—law couple raising children
 - B) A same—sex common—law couple without children
 - C) A divorcee with shared custody of children
 - D) A 26 year old daughter visiting her mother
 - E) A lone parent with one child

Answer: D
Page Ref: 5

- 10) Which of the following is an example of a non-family household?
- A) Two sisters sharing an apartment
 - B) Grandmother and granddaughter living together
 - C) Divorced parents living in separate homes sharing custody of children
 - D) Three university students sharing a tiny two-bedroom apartment
 - E) A common-law couple living in the suburbs

Answer: D
Page Ref: 5

- 11) An extended family is
- A) a kinship system in which the inheritance of property is determined through both male and female lines.
 - B) a nuclear family that maintains close ties with relatives.
 - C) a family system of three or more generations living together and sharing social rights and obligations.
 - D) a group of families who have social obligations towards each other.
 - E) a group of families who live in close proximity of each other.

Answer: C
Page Ref: 5, 26

- 12) One major limitation of using households as a substitute for families' while conducting research is that
- A) it is difficult for surveyors and census—takers to count every household.
 - B) families move into new residences faster than census—takers can count them.

- C) it fails to acknowledge divorced parents living in separate residences as one family.
- D) many families do not report their addresses.
- E) it excludes homeless families.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 5

13) Which of the following statements is inaccurate?

- A) Family life is important to Canadians.
- B) According to Murdock's definition of family two sisters living together cannot be a family.
- C) A child's age is irrelevant in defining a census family.
- D) A household may include a nuclear family.
- E) Definitions of family differ by cultural group.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 1-6

14) Which province passed the "Adult Interdependent Relationship Act" on June 1, 2003?

- A) Prince Edward Island
- B) British Columbia
- C) New Brunswick
- D) Ontario
- E) Alberta

Answer: E

Page Ref: 6

15) The United Nations (1991) defines families according to which of the following criteria?

- A) Blood relations
- B) Socioeconomic functions
- C) Household structure
- D) Blood relations AND socioeconomic functions
- E) All of the above

Answer: B

Page Ref: 6

16) According to the Vanier Institute of the Family and the Canadian Committee for the International Year of the Family (2004), families are

- A) ultimately defined by the shape they take rather than by what they do.
- B) ultimately defined by what they do rather than by the shape they take.
- C) ultimately defined by BOTH the shape they take AND by what they do.
- D) ultimately defined by EITHER the shape they take OR by what they do.
- E) too diverse to be defined at all.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 6

17) In the last two decades, most Canadians have come to accept

- A) the inevitability of divorce.
- B) a broad process—based definition of family.
- C) the collapse of family life.
- D) the superiority of living common—law rather than marrying.
- E) all of the above.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 6

18) Two common elements found in family life are

- A) protection and sexuality.
- B) reproduction and parenting.
- C) reciprocity and power.
- D) intimacy and communication.
- E) love and communication.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 7

19) Which of the following is a common characteristic of family life?

- A) A long-term commitment between one another
- B) Exclusive sexual relations between adult partners
- C) An unequal distribution of power among members
- D) Emotional dependency
- E) All of the above

Answer: E

Page Ref: 7-9

20) Which of the following is inaccurate? Within the family, there may be large differences in

- A) power
- B) strength
- C) age
- D) limits of fecundity
- E) social resources

Answer: D

Page Ref: 7

21) In most known societies, an imbalance in family resources has typically produced

- A) endogamy.
- B) polygamy.
- C) patriarchy.
- D) matrilineages.
- E) misogyny.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 8

22) Historically, men have dominated the family because

- A) men are naturally superior leaders.
- B) women have always preferred to play the nurturing role in the household.
- C) family law and policy support male domination.
- D) the family is a male—created institution.
- E) men place more importance in family life than women or children.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 8

23) A kinship group is

- A) a group of people distinguished by blood relations and/or marriage and have positions in a hierarchy of rights over property.
- B) a group of people distinguished by blood relations and/or marriage only.
- C) a group of people distinguished by positions in a hierarchy of rights over property only.
- D) a group of people distinguished by a shared domestic dwelling.
- E) a group of people distinguished by shared culture and tradition.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 9

24) The kinship system whereby an individual gains property rights as a consequence of being the child of his or her mother is known as

- A) patrilineal.
- B) bilineal.
- C) matrilineal.
- D) patriarchal.
- E) matriarchal.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 9

- 25) Which of the following statements about family kinship systems is correct?
- A) A cohort is a group of people who share a relationship through blood relations and/or marriage.
 - B) In a patrilineal system, relationships are counted through both male and female lines.
 - C) Systems in which relationships are counted through males only are called bilineal.
 - D) Western European and North American societies are mildly patrilineal.
 - E) A society with a matrilineal kinship system can only be dominated by females.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 9

- 26) The kinships system practiced in North America is best characterized as
- A) strongly patrilineal.
 - B) mildly patrilineal.
 - C) bilineal.
 - D) mildly matrilineal.
 - E) strongly matrilineal.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 9

- 27) Which of the following is a consequence of women being traditionally defined as the primary kin-keepers in a household?
- A) Children tend to be closer to their fathers extended family rather than their mother's.
 - B) Children maintain closer contacts with their mothers when they grow old.
 - C) If their parents' separate, grown children tend to visit both parents equally.
 - D) Fathers are relied upon by young children more than mothers.
 - E) Children grieve more when their mothers die than when their fathers die.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 9

- 28) One benefit of the life course approach to studying family relations is
- A) it recognizes that families do not stay the same over time.
 - B) it captures the myriad ways in which a family experience can be interpreted by its members.
 - C) it reveals how different a child's view of family life is from a parent's.
 - D) it focuses on the functions that families play in society.
 - E) it allows comparison of different cohorts in society.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 9

- 29) Which approach to understanding families examines the social and interpersonal dynamics of close relations and how they change over time?
- A) Structural Functionalism
 - B) Symbolic Interactionism
 - C) Life Course theory
 - D) Convergence theory
 - E) Postmodern theory

Answer: C

Page Ref: 9

- 30) What does "bedroom communities" refer to?
- A) Suburban communities where families lived with women who worked at home and were seen as bedrooms by the men who worked outside of the home.
 - B) Communities where families lived in close proximity to other extended family members thus implying a strong sense of closeness and comfort of bedrooms.
 - C) Families in feudalism where blood relatives and members of the community lived together and were largely undifferentiated from each other.
 - D) Postmodern communities where groups of people live together in close proximity to each in collective dwellings.
 - E) Communities where children are raised collectively and the role of the biological parents is deemed negligible.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 10

- 31) An advantage of studying families from the perspective of different members is that
- A) it explores the ways in which families cope with external forces and new requirements.
 - B) it generates a large amount of data for analysis.

- C) it can track changes in the family as individual members age.
- D) it reveals the differences in how family members interpret shared experiences.
- E) it views the family as existing within a broad social network.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 10

32) Statistics Canada's (1996) Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) is an example of what sociological research approach?

- A) The life course approach
- B) Examining family dynamics from multiple perspectives
- C) Longitudinal data collection on family diversity
- D) Symbolic interactionism
- E) Post-modern theory

Answer: C

Page Ref: 10

33) Which of the following has not been described by the author of your text as a challenge for Sociologists studying families over time?

- A) New information about families past and present alters how families are viewed.
- B) New theories and approaches to studying families are constantly emerging.
- C) Theories constantly need to be revised due to the risks and concerns involved in changing family lives.
- D) Sociological theories are political.
- E) Sociological training skews researcher's beliefs about what constitutes a family.

Answer: E

Page Ref: 11-12

34) According to Flandrin (1979), "family" as a social concept was first used

- A) in the Neolithic Period.
- B) among nomadic hunter-gatherer cultures.
- C) during the formation of the first agricultural communities.
- D) in 18th century Europe.
- E) after WWI.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 12

35) Among foraging societies, childbearing

- A) was often postponed until later in life more often than in early agricultural societies,
- B) was encouraged because it meant more people to help gather food.
- C) occurred earlier in life than it did in agricultural societies.
- D) was a painless process.
- E) was looked up as a religiously significant event.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 12

- 36) According to Engels ([1884] 1972), the “family” became an important and distinct social concept only after
- A) the government began consistent census-taking.
 - B) social welfare departments were created.
 - C) an economic surplus was made possible within communities.
 - D) the ease and rate of divorce increased.
 - E) children began working in factories.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 12

- 37) Which of the following pairs of sociological theorists shared similar ideas about how families adapt in response to economic and market changes?
- A) Engels and Le Play
 - B) Engels and Durkheim
 - C) Engels and Cheal
 - D) Durkheim and Cheal
 - E) Durkheim and Malinowski

Answer: A

Page Ref: 12-13

- 38) According to Le Play’s theory of family, what led to the emergence of smaller families during the feudalism period?
- A) Agricultural advancements
 - B) Improved sanitation
 - C) The increased presence of women in the workforce
 - D) Universal and mandatory education for children
 - E) The development of towns and markets

Answer: E

Page Ref: 13

- 39) Which of the following would be considered a “stem family”?
- A) A large group of people who are related by blood living together
 - B) A family that constantly changes members
 - C) A family that runs a small shop while the rest of the members move on or stay behind
 - D) A family in which the male head of household is absent
 - E) A family where children are raised by their grandparents

Answer: C

Page Ref: 13

- 40) Which of the following was a popular way of thinking about the family prior to the 1850s?
- A) Symbolic interactionism which focused on the roles of each family member
 - B) Matriarchies where women were thought to hold the most authority
 - C) Capitalism and the economy as the main force of family formation
 - D) Belief that each family member had a crucial role to play in the close relation
 - E) Judeo-Christian religious beliefs largely characterized by patriarchy theory

Answer: E

Page Ref: 13

- 41) What happened to the family as industrialization continued in the nineteenth century?
- A) Families became more important than work
 - B) Families increasingly worked together in family-run businesses
 - C) Both family and work lost importance in society
 - D) Family and work became more intertwined
 - E) Family and work became more separate

Answer: E

Page Ref: 14

- 42) Durkheim’s theories about family had two aspects, one of which was
- A) the law of expansion.
 - B) the law of correlation.
 - C) the law of family dynamics.
 - D) the law of regulation.
 - E) the law of contraction.

Answer: E

Page Ref: 14

- 43) Durkheim viewed the marriage relationship as
- A) permanent, unequal, and highly regulated by society.
 - B) permanent, equal, and highly regulated by society.
 - C) impermanent, unequal, and highly regulated by society.
 - D) impermanent, equal and unregulated by society.
 - E) impermanent, unequal, and unregulated by society.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 14

- 44) Emile Durkheim saw the family as
- A) a religious creation.
 - B) a natural creation.
 - C) a social creation.
 - D) an illusionary concept.
 - E) an opiate for the masses.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 14

- 45) Which of the following was a popular view shared among sociologists in the 19th century?
- A) Family resources are unequally shared between family members.
 - B) The nuclear family is essential to society.
 - C) The family is a public social institution.
 - D) The patriarchal family is the peak of social evolution.
 - E) The family is always in flux and constant change.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 14-15

- 46) Which of the following fails to capture the essence of family theory in 1950s North America?
- A) Immensely supportive of the nuclear family.
 - B) Willfully ignorant of family violence and the dissatisfaction of women.
 - C) Largely derived from the structural functionalist school.
 - D) Happy-faced and supportive of the status quo.
 - E) Idealizes television programs such as *Father Knows Best*

Answer: B

Page Ref: 16

47) One key aspect of Malinowski's theories about families is that

- A) the nuclear family specialized by gender is essential to society.
- B) the extended family is the ideal family arrangement.
- C) close friendships should be considered families.
- D) industrialization has been destructive to family relations.
- E) family is based upon economic inequality.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 16

48) What is the SNAF?

- A) "Standard North American" family
- B) Suburban North American Family
- C) Single and Newly Available Female
- D) Structural North American Functionalists
- E) Symbolic North American Family

Answer: A

Page Ref: 16

49) According to Cheal, sociological theories of the family since the 1970s have been heavily influenced by

- A) globalization.
- B) the Information Revolution.
- C) capitalism.
- D) feminism.
- E) post-modernism.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 17

50) Which of the following does feminist Sociology not recognize?

- A) The recognition that families are in constant change.
- B) An appreciation for the multiple ways to live in families.
- C) The belief that the family is a private institution..
- D) The treatment of gay and lesbian families as legitimate families rather than as examples of deviance.
- E) The belief that families are power based.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 18

51) Which of the following is a key feminist insight into the family?

- A) The family is only an ideology.
- B) The family is a meaningless social arrangement.
- C) The family is based on equality.
- D) The family is a public institution.
- E) The family is a global institution.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 18

52) The recognition of shared meaning between family workers is key to which Sociological theory?

- A) Structural functionalism
- B) Symbolic interactionism
- C) Marxist theory
- D) Feminist theory
- E) Post-modern theory

Answer: B

Page Ref: 20-21

53) Which of the following theories does not readily allow for social change?

- A) Symbolic Interaction
- B) Structural Functionalism
- C) Feminist theory
- D) Marxist theory
- E) Post Modern theory

Answer: B

Page Ref: 19-20

54) Post-modern sociologists believe that

- A) families are in crisis.
- B) there are numerous ways for families to co-exist.
- C) families are natural creations.
- D) common-law relationships are healthier than marriage relationships.
- E) there is no such thing as a happy marriage.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 21

- 55) Convergence theory postulates that
- A) families are being forced to change.
 - B) families are choosing to change.
 - C) families will continue to differ
 - D) families are being forced to change AND they are becoming the same.
 - E) Some family changes are more effective than others.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 22

- 56) Which of the following is not a flaw of Convergence theory?
- A) It assumes that all modern families freely choose their new forms.
 - B) It assumes that all modern families are similar to one another.
 - C) It assumes that all modern families are different from traditional families.
 - D) It assumes that industrialization has only benefited families.
 - E) It assures the need for distinct gender roles.

Answer: E

Page Ref: 22

- 57) According to Goode (1984), societies that industrialize fail the needs of families because
- A) the industrial system treats workers as individuals, ignoring their family lives.
 - B) few employers offer childcare and other work—life programs that assist women in the workforce.
 - C) the elderly are forced to work in order to survive.
 - D) A & B above.
 - E) A & C above.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 22

- 58) According to Goode (1984), industrialization
- A) provides a workplace for the elderly.
 - B) demands geographical mobility of the individual worker
 - C) ensures job security.
 - D) offers programs for adults and children coping with crisis.
 - E) eases the burden of women who raise families and participate in the labour force.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 22

- 59) Which of the following statements would feminist theory agree with in regards to housework?
- A) Because women earn less in paid wages than men, this is linked to the reason why they do more work at home
 - B) As more women enter the paid workforce, men will do more housework to compensate for women's absence
 - C) Women who work outside the home do less housework than men who work outside the home
 - D) Due to the lower number of babies that women have in today's society, the number of hours they spend doing housework will also decline
 - E) Men who do not work will do just as much housework as women who do not work outside of the home

Answer: A

Page Ref: 21

- 60) Which of the following is one of the five principles of the life course theory?
- A) Human development occurs throughout life
 - B) Individuals have little or no control over the course of their lives
 - C) Life courses are dependent on economics, policies and social attitudes favouring families
 - D) The same events affect individuals and families in the same way
 - E) Individuals construct their lives through social interactions with family members

Answer: A

Page Ref: 23

Short Answer Questions

1. Describe how Statistics Canada defines a Census Family.

See Pgs 4-5

2. Distinguish process-based definitions of family with structural-based definitions.

See Pgs.5-6

3. Identify and briefly explain any three common elements of family life as described in chapter one of your text.

See Pgs. 7-8

4. Who have been primarily defined as kin-keepers in Canada and what effects does this have on particular family relationships?

See Pg. 9

5. When it comes to lineage amongst Canadians, how would you describe it?

See Pg. 9

6. Why would feminists be opposed to the term “bedroom communities”?

See Pg.10

7. Briefly describe three reasons why it is difficult for sociologists to forecast future changes in the family.

See Pgs. 11-12

8. Briefly elaborate on Engel's connection between food surplus and family inheritance.

See Pg. 12

9. Briefly explain the connection between the separation of the public world of work and the private world of home and distinctive sex roles as described by Durkheim.

See Pg. 14

10. Briefly elaborate on what structural functionalists refer to as the "golden age" of the nuclear family.

See Pg 16

Long Answer Questions

1. Structural functionalists suggest marriage partners complement each other while feminists would argue they compete. Demonstrate both theoretical sides of this argument from the perspective of that theory.

See Pgs. 19 & 21

2. Social change is very significant to both symbolic interactionists and post modernists. Elaborate on why this is the case for each from the perspective of that theory.

See Pgs. 20-21

3. Elaborate on how Marx and Engels theorized the development of monogamous relationships between husbands and wives.

See Pgs. 20-21