

Chapter 2: The Family in History

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Humans' increased longevity over time is largely the result of:
- A. genetic changes.
 - B. government policy.
 - C. standard of living.
 - D. education.

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: New Family Diversity
OBJ: Identify four broad historical trends that have changed the character of American family life. MSC: Remembering

2. Families began having fewer children in the nineteenth century. Which of the following was NOT a contributor to this change?
- A. widely available information about birth control
 - B. couples wanted fewer children
 - C. decreased infant death rate
 - D. couples learned how to prevent pregnancy

ANS: A DIF: Medium REF: Origins of the American Family
OBJ: Identify four broad historical trends that have changed the character of American family life. MSC: Understanding

3. Which of the following is NOT an important broad historic trend impacting the character of American family life?
- A. increased longevity
 - B. families performing more functional tasks at home
 - C. decreased family size
 - D. decline of the two-parent nuclear family

ANS: B DIF: Medium REF: New Family Diversity
OBJ: Identify four broad historical trends that have changed the character of American family life. MSC: Remembering

4. Archaeologists' discovery of Stone Age family burials in Europe was sociologically significant for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:
- A. one family is the oldest-known DNA-confirmed nuclear family.
 - B. ancient people acknowledged a variety of family forms.
 - C. their remains contain bones broken by weapons.
 - D. family memberships were considered eternal.

ANS: C DIF: Medium REF: Early History
OBJ: Describe the significance of archaeological findings about prehistoric families on sociologists' understanding of family arrangements throughout human history.
MSC: Evaluating

5. The pervasive element of European and American society in which men controlled all property and had control over women and children is called:
- A. sexism.
 - B. matriarchy.
 - C. patriarchy.
 - D. traditional society.

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Early History
OBJ: Evaluate the long-term impact of historical oppression on family life for women, African Americans, American Indians, and other immigrant groups. MSC: Remembering

- ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: Origins of the American Family
OBJ: Evaluate the long-term impact of historical oppression on family life for women, African Americans, American Indians, and other immigrant groups. MSC: Remembering

- ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Origins of the American Family
OBJ: Evaluate the long-term impact of historical oppression on family life for women, African Americans, American Indians, and other immigrant groups. MSC: Remembering

- ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: Origins of the American Family
OBJ: Understand the influence of the Christian church on the development of norms of family life in the United States. MSC: Evaluating

- ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: Origins of the American Family
OBJ: Understand the historical role of government in defining family morality and supporting disadvantaged families. MSC: Analyzing

- ANS: B DIF: Medium REF: Origins of the American Family
OBJ: Analyze the changing cultural meaning assigned to childhood, including scientific and religious beliefs about parenting strategies. MSC: Evaluating

- ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: Origins of the American Family
OBJ: Understand the evolving role of extended family and kinship networks
through U.S. history. MSC: Remembering

- A. grandparents.
- C. one parent.

B. unrelated adults. D. both parents.

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Origins of the American Family
OBJ: Evaluate the long-term impact of historical oppression on family life for women, African Americans, American Indians, and other immigrant groups. MSC: Remembering

13. It is difficult for sociologists and historians to know which parts of slave family life were African traditions because:
- A. no records were kept.
 - B. language and customs were suppressed.
 - C. this part of slave history has not been studied.
 - D. customs and traditions varied widely among slaves.

ANS: B DIF: Medium REF: Origins of the American Family
OBJ: Evaluate the long-term impact of historical oppression on family life for women, African Americans, American Indians, and other immigrant groups. MSC: Understanding

14. Industrialization in the United States contributed to the development of all of the following ideals EXCEPT:
- A. independence.
 - B. separate spheres.
 - C. secularism.
 - D. free choice.

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Origins of the American Family
OBJ: Describe the effects of the Industrial Revolution on family structure, household gender roles, and the development of separate spheres. MSC: Analyzing

15. As mate selection became less a matter of economics and status and more an emotional endeavor, young people began the practice of:
- A. arranged marriage.
 - B. dating.
 - C. cohabitation.
 - D. courtship.

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Origins of the American Family
OBJ: Evaluate the role of macro-level social forces on courtship practices during the colonial, pre-modern, and modern periods of U.S. history. MSC: Understanding

16. During the nineteenth century, the social construction of childhood developed in all of the following ways EXCEPT:
- A. childhood happiness was considered.
 - B. emotional bonds with parents were acceptable.
 - C. children were seen as fundamentally innocent.
 - D. conformity was emphasized.

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Origins of the American Family
OBJ: Analyze the changing cultural meaning assigned to childhood, including scientific and religious beliefs about parenting strategies. MSC: Understanding

17. The ideology that dictates that women are naturally ideal for homemaking is known as:
- A. industrialization.
 - B. separate spheres.
 - C. wage gap.
 - D. monogamy.

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Origins of the American Family
OBJ: Describe the effects of the Industrial Revolution on family structure, household gender roles, and the development of separate spheres. MSC: Remembering

18. Government involvement in family life increased in the nineteenth century in all of the following ways EXCEPT:

- A. imposing Christian standards on American Indians.
- B. outlawing divorce.
- C. defining marriage as monogamous.
- D. defining only men as real citizens.

ANS: B

DIF: Medium

REF: Origins of the American Family

OBJ: Understand the historical role of government in defining family morality and supporting disadvantaged families.

MSC: Analyzing

19. In a male-dominated wage economy, orphans and widows were commonly:
- A. cared for by extended families.
 - B. aided by an emerging welfare system.
 - C. taken in by churches.
 - D. homeless.

ANS: B

DIF: Easy

REF: Origins of the American Family

OBJ: Understand the historical role of government in defining family morality and supporting disadvantaged families.

MSC: Remembering

20. African American families in the late nineteenth century had which of the following qualities?
- A. greater gender equality
 - B. stronger marriages
 - C. weaker extended family networks
 - D. no legal recognition

ANS: A

DIF: Medium

REF: Origins of the American Family

OBJ: Evaluate the long-term impact of historical oppression on family life for women, African Americans, American Indians, and other immigrant groups.

MSC: Understanding

21. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 cut off new immigration from China, which resulted in:
- A. unmarried Chinese men.
 - B. split-household families.
 - C. discrimination against Chinese.
 - D. poverty among the Chinese.

ANS: A

DIF: Easy

REF: Origins of the American Family

OBJ: Evaluate the long-term impact of historical oppression on family life for women, African Americans, American Indians, and other immigrant groups.

MSC: Remembering

22. In the late 1800s, long periods of family separation for Latinos and Chinese immigrants contributed to a culture of:
- A. poverty.
 - B. strong religious belief.
 - C. familism.
 - D. divorce.

ANS: C

DIF: Medium

REF: Origins of the American Family

OBJ: Evaluate the long-term impact of historical oppression on family life for women, African Americans, American Indians, and other immigrant groups.

MSC: Evaluating

23. The idealized “traditional” nuclear family, consisting of male breadwinner and female homemaker, was the most common arrangement:
- A. throughout American history, until the 1970s.
 - B. beginning in the mid-twentieth century.
 - C. for all demographic groups.
 - D. only during colonial times.

ANS: B

DIF: Easy

REF: The Modern Family

OBJ: Distinguish between the idealized “traditional” nuclear family and the historical reality for American families.

MSC: Remembering

24. In the early 1900s, the reasons for marriage began to change. This cultural shift is known as:
- A. “religious to personal.”
 - B. “economic to romantic.”
 - C. “institution to companionship.”
 - D. “endogamy to exogamy.”

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: The Modern Family
OBJ: Understand the reasons that the basis for marriage has transitioned over time from economic to emotional, and the outcomes of this transition. MSC: Understanding

25. An extended family, guided by the authority of the father and functioning based on economic needs, would be considered a:
- A. patriarchal family.
 - B. companionship family.
 - C. practical family.
 - D. traditional family.

ANS: A DIF: Medium REF: The Modern Family
OBJ: Understand the reasons that the basis for marriage has transitioned over time from economic to emotional, and the outcomes of this transition. MSC: Analyzing

26. A family consisting of two parents and their children, whose priorities are personal fulfillment and common affection, would be considered a:
- A. modern family.
 - B. companionship family.
 - C. traditional family.
 - D. patriarchal family.

ANS: B DIF: Medium REF: The Modern Family
OBJ: Understand the reasons that the basis for marriage has transitioned over time from economic to emotional, and the outcomes of this transition. MSC: Analyzing

27. For what reasons did companionate marriage appeal to many men in growing white-collar industries?
- A. for the benefits of dual incomes
 - B. economic benefits of fewer children
 - C. practical support of having a homemaker
 - D. as a remedy for alienation in the workplace

ANS: D DIF: Medium REF: The Modern Family
OBJ: Understand the reasons that the basis for marriage has transitioned over time from economic to emotional, and the outcomes of this transition. MSC: Analyzing

28. The 1950s brought increased motivation for young people to marry, as the result of all of the following social forces EXCEPT:
- A. government incentive.
 - B. moral and religious pressure.
 - C. cultural shifts in authority.
 - D. economic opportunities.

ANS: B DIF: Medium REF: The Modern Family
OBJ: Evaluate the role of macro-level social forces on courtship practices during the colonial, pre-modern, and modern periods of U.S. history. MSC: Analyzing

29. The family in the second half of the twentieth century was heavily impacted by:
- A. reduced opportunity for women.
 - B. increased reliance on extended family for care.
 - C. reduction in government assistance programs.
 - D. reduction of the home as a place of work.

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: New Family Diversity
OBJ: Identify four broad historical trends that have changed the character of American family life. MSC: Analyzing

30. Between 1900 and 1965 the “industrial revolution” of household technologies such as dishwashers and microwave ovens impacted women’s household labor in what way?
- A. Women spent far fewer hours on housework.
 - B. Women spent even more hours on housework, but doing different things.

- C. Women spent about the same amount of time on housework.
- D. Housework began to be done by men.

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: New Family Diversity
OBJ: Describe the effects of the Industrial Revolution on family structure, household gender roles, and the development of separate spheres. MSC: Remembering

31. Over the course of the twentieth century, there was a trend in households from primarily married-couple households toward:
- A. no new dominant standard.
 - B. non-family groupings.
 - C. primarily single or cohabiting people.
 - D. a new standard of extended households.

ANS: A DIF: Medium REF: New Family Diversity
OBJ: Identify four broad historical trends that have changed the character of American family life. MSC: Understanding

32. In the late twentieth century, cultural changes in the meaning of and motivation for marriage evolved in what way?
- A. Economic pressure to stay married increased.
 - B. Emotional success became central to marriage success.
 - C. Choosing to remain single was increasingly discouraged.
 - D. Endogamy was strengthened.

ANS: B DIF: Difficult REF: New Family Diversity
OBJ: Understand the reasons that the basis for marriage has transitioned over time from economic to emotional, and the outcomes of this transition. MSC: Understanding

33. Increasing physical separation of families:
- A. heightened the personal value of independence.
 - B. reduced family diversity.
 - C. undermined people's sense of freedom.
 - D. clarified the involuntary nature of modern family relationships.

ANS: A DIF: Medium REF: New Family Diversity
OBJ: Understand the evolving role of extended family and kinship networks through U.S. history. MSC: Analyzing

34. The cultural value of independence can be observed in the context of all of the following social roles EXCEPT:
- A. worker.
 - B. citizen.
 - C. family member.
 - D. religious observer.

ANS: D DIF: Medium REF: New Family Diversity
OBJ: Identify four broad historical trends that have changed the character of American family life. MSC: Analyzing

35. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of modern grandparenting?
- A. They may have longer-lasting emotional bonds with their grandchildren.
 - B. Due to physical distance, grandparent relationships are more voluntary.
 - C. They are more involved due to financial dependence on adult children.
 - D. They are doing more direct caregiving of grandchildren.

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: New Family Diversity
OBJ: Understand the evolving role of extended family and kinship networks through U.S. history. MSC: Understanding

36. Many women find themselves caring for adolescent children as well as aging parents. Social scientists call this population:
- A. caregivers.
 - B. middle-aged.
 - C. the middle generation.
 - D. the sandwich generation.
- ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: New Family Diversity
 OBJ: Evaluate the long-term impact of historical oppression on family life for women, African Americans, American Indians, and other immigrant groups. MSC: Remembering
37. Middle-class and affluent families were the first to develop an emphasis on emotional bonds in family life because:
- A. popular culture and the media promoted this.
 - B. they had less need to consider the economic impact of mate selection.
 - C. they tend to be less religious.
 - D. they had more education.
- ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: New Family Diversity
 OBJ: Understand the reasons that the basis for marriage has transitioned over time from economic to emotional, and the outcomes of this transition. MSC: Understanding
38. The increasing diversity of naming practices is indicative of:
- A. ethnic diversity in the United States.
 - B. cultural tradition.
 - C. personal freedom.
 - D. individualism.
- ANS: C DIF: Medium REF: New Family Diversity
 OBJ: Identify four broad historical trends that have changed the character of American family life. MSC: Understanding
39. Which of the following has NOT been a change to our understanding of childhood in the late twentieth century?
- A. Parents see their children as a project.
 - B. Emotional connections between parent and child are more acceptable.
 - C. Children are more likely to experience trauma.
 - D. Childhood is seen as a time of innocence.
- ANS: C DIF: Medium REF: New Family Diversity
 OBJ: Analyze the changing cultural meaning assigned to childhood, including scientific and religious beliefs about parenting strategies. MSC: Analyzing
40. Which of the following is NOT a major trend in the historical changes in American family life?
- A. Family size has decreased.
 - B. The economic function of the family has been transformed.
 - C. Divorce rates have declined.
 - D. Families have become more diverse.
- ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: The Modern Family
 OBJ: Identify four broad historical trends that have changed the character of American family life. MSC: Evaluating

ESSAY

1. Identify two major social trends in the historical development of the American family from colonial to modern times, explaining why they are significant.

ANS:

Students may discuss decreased family size, changing motivations for mate selection, the impact of economic changes on family life, increased life expectancy, increased diversity, or changing gender roles. Smaller family size is associated with a national trend toward greater individualism; individuals are less likely over time to have extended family support and obligations. Mate selection moved from being economically motivated to being motivated by personal fulfillment, another reflection of a focus on individualism and personal satisfaction. The impact of changed gender roles has been pervasive. Household division of labor has been transformed, and women's participation in the workforce has given them social power they hadn't had. For example, with economic independence, women are free to leave unstable or unhappy marriages, surely one contributor to the gradually increased divorce rate.

DIF: Medium REF: The Family in History

OBJ: Identify four broad historical trends that have changed the character of American family life. MSC: Analyzing

2. Describe what is known about prehistoric families and explain the significance of these findings for our understanding of family in general.

ANS:

Burial practices among early humans tell us about endogamy and exogamy, family structure, the existence of early nuclear families, and the early practice of family support in survival. We learned about the spacing between siblings and family size. This tells sociologists more about the origins of the nuclear family, parenting practices, and the social acknowledgment of extended family relationships.

DIF: Easy REF: Early History

OBJ: Describe the significance of archaeological findings about prehistoric families on sociologists' understanding of family arrangements throughout human history.
MSC: Understanding

3. Evaluate the role of religion, particularly the Christian church, on family norms and values in the nineteenth century.

ANS:

In early American history, churches held the role now held by government. They determined the validity of marriages, presided over ceremonies, and allocated power and money among family members. Ideas on marriage and divorce based on Christian doctrine were imposed on all citizens. The standard of monogamy, among other morals, was established into law through the power of religious ideology.

DIF: Medium REF: Origins of the American Family | The Emerging Modern Family

OBJ: Understand the influence of the Christian church on the development of norms of family life in the United States. MSC: Evaluating

4. Describe the impact of slavery on the family structure of African Americans throughout U.S. history.

ANS:

Students should address the lost customs and languages of diverse Africans brought as slaves. Social scientists are often unsure which of the resulting cultural features of African American family life are held over from African traditions and which are adaptations to slavery. Family lineage was difficult or impossible to trace. Separation of parents and children was common. After the Civil War, African American families were legally recognized, and some were reunited. Emerging African American families were more egalitarian in gender roles and had strong extended family and kinship networks.

DIF: Easy REF: Origins of the American Family | The Emerging Modern Family

OBJ: Evaluate the long-term impact of historical oppression on family life for women, African Americans, American Indians, and other immigrant groups. MSC: Understanding

5. Analyze the impact of the Industrial Revolution on family structure, paying particular attention to family structure, social class, and gender roles.

ANS:

Industrialization brought about an increase in individualism and a pronounced separation of the private and public spheres. Families were no longer individual miniature economies. Students should reference the “traditional family,” noting that it was not economically feasible for poor, working-class, or minority families. Discussion of “separate spheres” and gendered division of labor will be important.

DIF: Difficult REF: Origins of the American Family | The Emerging Modern Family

OBJ: Describe the effects of the Industrial Revolution on family structure, household gender roles, and the development of separate spheres. MSC: Analyzing

6. Identify three specific examples of government influence over family life and describe their long-term impact.

ANS:

Examples might include:

- regulating marriage
- allocating power and money within families
- implementing mandatory “monogamous morality”
- defining obscenity (to include not only pornography but also birth control)
- institutions for widows and orphans
- aid to families in modern times, such as Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Medicaid

DIF: Medium REF: Origins of the American Family | The Emerging Modern Family

OBJ: Understand the historical role of government in defining family morality and supporting disadvantaged families. MSC: Understanding

7. Discuss the social construction of childhood, evaluating the experiences of children throughout U.S. history as a reflection of broader cultural values.

ANS:

Response should indicate an understanding of the meaning of the “social construction” of childhood, not merely describe the experiences of children throughout history. Response should explain the economic role of children during colonial times, the view of children as having original sin, and the changed view of childhood in later American history, wherein children are seen as innocent and deserving of a carefree period of life.

DIF: Difficult REF: Origins of the American Family | The Emerging Modern Family

OBJ: Analyze the changing cultural meaning assigned to childhood, including scientific and religious beliefs about parenting strategies. MSC: Evaluating

8. Describe the causes and consequences of the increased physical separation of extended families after the Industrial Revolution.

ANS:

Families separated during and after the Industrial Revolution in the search for employment as farming ceased to be the primary means of survival. Separation from extended family increased family members' sense of individualism and underscored the voluntary nature of family relationships. Students may define extended family and stem family. Another consequence of this separation is the existence of vulnerable widows and orphans—Americans who began to receive assistance from government institutions, previously provided by extended families.

DIF: Medium REF: Origins of the American Family | The Emerging Modern Family
OBJ: Understand the evolving role of extended family and kinship networks through U.S. history.
MSC: Understanding

9. Evaluate the myths and realities of the idealized “traditional” nuclear family in U.S. history.

ANS:

The main ideas to be covered here are a discussion of the makeup of a traditional family (heterosexual, male breadwinner, female homemaker), the origins of this ideal (Industrial Revolution), and its actual prevalence (only briefly did the majority of families take this form, and never was it possible for poor, working-class, or minority families). The fact that traditional families are actually not that common is a result of economic forces and the increased social empowerment of women.

DIF: Medium REF: Origins of the American Family | The Emerging Modern Family
OBJ: Distinguish between the idealized “traditional” nuclear family and the historical reality for American families. MSC: Analyzing

10. Analyze the social forces and cultural values that led to changes in courtship practices between colonial and modern times.

ANS:

Students should identify the changing courtship practices throughout U.S. history (courtship to dating) and identify the social forces underlying that transition. Responses should address the move from parental involvement to autonomous decision making in mate selection. The movement of religion out of family life, in addition to the tendency toward more individualism and a view of marriage as a source of personal fulfillment (not simply an economic transaction), contributed to these changes.

DIF: Difficult REF: Origins of the American Family | The Emerging Modern Family
OBJ: Evaluate the role of macro-level social forces on courtship practices during the colonial, pre-modern, and modern periods of U.S. history. MSC: Analyzing