

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 a 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: p. 3 BLM: Remember

2. Which term is used by Statistics Canada to refer to a group of people who occupy the same dwelling?
 - a. cohabitation
 - b. household
 - c. family
 - d. census family

ANS: B REF: p. 3 BLM: Remember

3. Which term would Statistics Canada use to describe three students who share an apartment?
 - a. intentional family
 - b. household
 - c. unmarried cohabitation
 - d. family of convenience

ANS: B REF: pp. 3–4 BLM: Higher order

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

ANS: B REF: p. 4 BLM: Remember

5. The Orthodox Mennonites of Waterloo Region in Ontario live very simply, with no electricity, cars, computers, or telephones on their farms. The basic unit of institutional life in this community is the congregation. Which term best describes the Orthodox Mennonites?
 - a. household
 - b. cohabitation
 - c. communal living
 - d. intentional family

ANS: C REF: p. 4 BLM: Higher order

6. Which of the following describes the legal definition of family in Canada?
 - a. embodied in federal family law
 - b. consistent in all human service fields
 - c. dependent on who is defining it
 - d. consistent across the country

ANS: C REF: pp. 4–6 BLM: Higher order

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

ANS: A REF: pp. 4–6 BLM: Higher order

8. 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: pp. 4–5 BLM: Higher order

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

ANS: B REF: p. 6 BLM: Remember

10. Same-sex marriages are permitted in Canada, but the Catholic Church will not perform same-sex wedding ceremonies. According to the text, what do we call the Catholic Church’s definition of family?
- legal definition
 - social definition
 - personal definition
 - formal definition

ANS: B REF: pp. 6–7 BLM: Higher order

11. Which term best describes a family consisting of married parents and their children?
- extended family
 - nuclear family
 - real family
 - perfect family

ANS: B REF: pp. 6–7 BLM: Remember

12. Cody’s parents are divorced and share custody. Which of the following best describes Cody’s situation?
- Cody has more than one family of procreation.
 - 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: pp. 6–7 BLM: Higher order

13. Which of the following are included in the extended family?

- a. the nuclear family and other relatives
- b. relatives other than members of the nuclear family
- c. the legal family as defined by Statistics Canada
- d. close friends who act like family members

ANS: A REF: p. 7 BLM: Higher order

14. According to the text, membership in both nuclear and extended families is determined by which of the following?

- a. personal beliefs about who belongs in the family
- b. household membership
- c. genetic or “blood” relationship, marriage, and adoption
- d. the federal government, so that definitions are consistent across provinces

ANS: C REF: p. 7 BLM: Higher order

15. Marie lives with her mother and father and two brothers. Which term best describes Marie’s family?

- a. traditional extended family
- b. typical family of procreation
- c. standard North American family
- d. intentional family

ANS: C REF: pp. 6, 10 BLM: Higher order

16. Like many lesbians, Janet considers her close friends in the homosexual community to be family members. What type of definition of the family is she using?

- a. legal
- b. social
- c. personal
- d. illegal

ANS: C REF: p. 7 BLM: Higher order

17. Samir and Janet got married and had a daughter named Leila. For Samir and Janet, which term best describes this family?

- a. extended family
- b. intentional family
- c. family of procreation
- d. family of orientation

ANS: C REF: p. 7 BLM: Higher order

18. Samir and Janet got married and had a daughter named Leila. For Leila, which term best describes this family?

- a. extended family
- b. intentional family
- c. family of procreation
- d. family of orientation

ANS: D REF: p. 7 BLM: Higher order

19. Pietro lives with his mother, father, and two sisters. On Sundays they go to visit his grandparents, and often some of his aunts, uncles, and cousins are there as well. Which term best describes these people for Pietro?

- a. extended family

- b. census family
- c. family of procreation
- d. family of orientation

ANS: A REF: p. 8 BLM: Higher order

20. Why is it important to use theories to study 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: p. 8 BLM: Higher order

21. Which of the following is an example of a micro theory?
- a. family systems theory
 - b. structural functionalist theory
 - c. conflict theory
 - d. symbolic interactionist theory

ANS: D REF: p. 9 BLM: Higher order

22. The structural functionalist theory studies how the social structure affects the family. What kind of theory is the structural functionalist theory?
- a. macro theory
 - b. micro theory
 - c. conflict theory
 - d. family theory

ANS: A REF: p. 9 BLM: Higher order

23. Which of the following describes family according to the structural functionalist view of the family?
- a. a system of individuals bargaining for their rights
 - b. the source of role theory and role strain
 - c. an institution among other institutions in society
 - d. the basis of power relationships in society

ANS: C REF: p. 9 BLM: Higher order

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

ANS: B REF: pp. 9–10 BLM: Higher order

25. Which term refers to the process of how knowledge of the “proper” way of doing things in society is passed on to each generation?
- a. education
 - b. indoctrination
 - c. acculturation
 - d. socialization

ANS: D REF: p. 9 BLM: Remember

26. Which term refers to the cultural rules that outline what, where, when, how, and why we should do something?
- a. status rules
 - b. role models
 - c. social scripts
 - d. cultural imperatives

ANS: C REF: p. 9 BLM: Remember

27. What do structural functionalists believe about role specialization?
- a. it increases the efficiency of family functioning
 - b. it provides good role models
 - c. it benefits men and women equally
 - d. it is exploitative of women

ANS: A REF: p. 9 BLM: Higher order

28. What is a criticism of the structural functionalist theory?
- a. it does not provide good explanations of why society maintains values
 - b. it does not explain why families and society change
 - c. it does not focus on stability in the family
 - d. it does not consider how the family is connected to social institutions

ANS: B REF: p. 10 BLM: Higher order

29. According to the text, which of the following is the structural functionalist view of the family often associated with?
- a. the “traditional” family
 - b. the feminist movement
 - c. decision making in families
 - d. the meaning of family behaviour

ANS: A REF: p. 10 BLM: Remember

30. According to the text, which of the following theories has long been the basis for providing social services to families?
- a. developmental
 - b. structural functionalism
 - c. symbolic interactionism
 - d. ecological

ANS: B REF: p. 10 BLM: Remember

31. According to the text, which of the following theories is particularly concerned with power relationships and inequality?
- a. family systems
 - b. conflict
 - c. developmental
 - d. exchange

ANS: B REF: p. 10 BLM: Remember

32. According to conflict theory, families and society change as a result of which of the following?

- a. the vicious cycle of morphogenesis
- b. changes in the meanings found in the situation
- c. shifts in the balance of power
- d. the pressure of developmental tasks

ANS: C REF: p. 11 BLM: Higher order

33. According to Marxist theory, which social system has the most profound influence on all social groups, including the family?

- a. political
- b. religious
- c. economic
- d. educational

ANS: C REF: p. 10 BLM: Remember

34. According to Engels, monogamous marriage developed to solve which problem?

- a. inheritance
- b. infidelity
- c. insecurity
- d. infatuation

ANS: A REF: p. 11 BLM: Remember

35. Annisha is studying how a group of workers are negotiating with their employer to have more flexible working hours. Which theoretical approach is Annisha using?

- a. family systems theory
- b. conflict theory
- c. developmental theory
- d. symbolic interactionist theory

ANS: B REF: pp. 10–11 BLM: Higher order

36. According to the text, in what way are structural functionalist and conflict theories similar?

- a. both focus on the ways families change over time
- b. both focus on power dynamics in families
- c. both are macro theories of the family
- d. both are economic models of the family

ANS: C REF: p. 10 BLM: Remember

37. Which theory believes that the best way to understand relations between family members is to examine the meanings each sees in other members' words and actions?

- a. developmental theory
- b. conflict theory
- c. symbolic interactionist theory
- d. exchange theory

ANS: C REF: p. 11 BLM: Higher order

38. Symbolic interactionists study status and roles from the viewpoint of which of the following?

- a. society
- b. individuals
- c. social institutions
- d. social groups

ANS: B REF: p. 11 BLM: Remember

39. When Elizabeth was growing up, her mother always worked outside the home. Now that she is a mother, Elizabeth also expects to work outside the home. What might be making Elizabeth feel this way?
- a. developmental imperative
 - b. status-transfer
 - c. role-taking
 - d. social time clock

ANS: C REF: pp. 11–12 BLM: Higher order

40. Peter has a good job, but he is expected to spend many hours at the office. At first he really enjoyed his work, but now Peter is starting to feel tired and overwhelmed. Which term describes what Peter is feeling?
- a. developmental lag
 - b. role-taking
 - c. role strain
 - d. status exchange

ANS: C REF: p. 12 BLM: Higher order

41. Which theory is often used as a basis for family therapy?
- a. structural functionalist theory
 - b. conflict theory
 - c. symbolic interactionist theory
 - d. feminist theory

ANS: C REF: p. 12 BLM: Remember

42. Which theory focuses on the complementarity of roles within a family?
- a. structural functionalist theory
 - b. conflict theory
 - c. family systems theory
 - d. feminist theory

ANS: C REF: p. 12 BLM: Remember

43. Which statement is NOT true of a family system?
- a. it contains a set of interrelated and interacting parts
 - b. there is a complementarity of roles
 - c. membership is marked by boundaries
 - d. there is constant change in role formation

ANS: D REF: p. 12 BLM: Remember

44. Which of the following describes a belief of family systems theory?
- a. problems of one member of the family will affect all other members
 - b. power in the family is usually exercised by men
 - c. the family is the main vehicle for passing on norms and values
 - d. each member in the system must accomplish certain developmental tasks

ANS: A REF: p. 12 BLM: Higher order

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

ANS: C REF: p. 13 BLM: Higher order

46. According to the text, when a therapist talks about family rules what type of approach to the family is he or she probably using?
- a. family systems theory
 - b. developmental theory
 - c. exchange theory
 - d. feminist theory

ANS: A REF: p. 13 BLM: Higher order

47. According to the text, what is the main strength of family systems theory?
- a. its emphasis 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: p. 13 BLM: Higher order

48. Which of the following is a criticism of family systems theory discussed in the text?
- 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: p. 13 BLM: Higher order

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

ANS: C REF: p. 13 BLM: Higher order

50. Which term refers to a social system that benefits men?
- a. monolithic
 - b. matriarchy
 - c. patriarchy
 - d. masculinity

ANS: C REF: p. 14 BLM: Remember

51. 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: p. 14 BLM: Remember

52. 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. Which view of family life does Michael's statement agree with?
- developmental theory
 - symbolic interactionist theory
 - exchange theory
 - feminist theory

ANS: D REF: p. 14 BLM: Higher order

53. Because Dimitri is a boy, his parents buy him blue shirts and pants to wear, and trucks and cars to play with. This is an example of which of the following?
- developmental task
 - gender socialization
 - social exchange
 - social script

ANS: B REF: p. 14 BLM: Higher order

54. Which theory of the family most commonly uses the terms "macrosystem," "exosystem," "mesosystem," "microsystem," and "chronosystem"?
- ecological theory
 - systems theory
 - feminist theory
 - conflict theory

ANS: A REF: pp. 16–17 BLM: Remember

55. 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?
- macrosystem
 - mesosystem
 - microsystem
 - exosystem

ANS: D REF: p. 16 BLM: Higher order

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

ANS: A REF: pp. 16–17 BLM: Higher order

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

ANS: B REF: p. 17 BLM: Higher order

58. Which of the following is true according to developmental theory?
- 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: p. 17 BLM: Remember

59. 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: p. 17 BLM: Higher order

60. What is the social time clock?
- 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: p. 18 BLM: Remember

61. 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: pp. 18–19 BLM: Higher order

62. What type of research presents information in the form of numbers?
- qualitative research
 - survey research
 - quantitative research
 - longitudinal research

ANS: C REF: p. 20 BLM: Remember

63. Which of the following is one of the most important organizations conducting survey research in Canada?
- Maclean's* magazine
 - Statistics Canada
 - Pew Research Center
 - Corrections Canada

ANS: B REF: p. 20 BLM: Remember

64. 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?
- survey
 - cohort study
 - experiment
 - observation

ANS: A REF: p. 20 BLM: Higher order

65. According to the text, what is probably the most common form of qualitative research?
- in-depth interview
 - experiment
 - direct observation
 - focus group

ANS: A REF: p. 21 BLM: Remember

66. 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?
- interview
 - direct observation
 - documentary research
 - cross-sectional research

ANS: B REF: p. 22 BLM: Higher order

67. According to the text, what is one of the most common forms of statistical analysis?
- cross-sectioning
 - cohort analysis
 - correlation
 - quantitative research

ANS: C REF: p. 22 BLM: Remember

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

ANS: D REF: p. 22 BLM: Higher order

69. Mary-Ellen is comparing how mothers discipline children aged one, five, and nine years of age. What type of research is she probably conducting?
- cohort research
 - cross-sectional research
 - longitudinal research
 - experiments

ANS: B REF: p. 22 BLM: Higher order

70. What does longitudinal research involve?

- a. comparing individuals of different ages in relation to a particular factor
- b. looking at how people of different cohorts differ in attitudes
- c. following the same individuals over a period of time
- d. reporting on the researchers' experiences when they take part in people's activities

ANS: C REF: p. 22 BLM: Higher order

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

ANS: D REF: p. 23 BLM: Higher order

COMPLETION

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

ANS: household

REF: p. 3

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

ANS: communal living

REF: p. 4

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

ANS: mesosystem

REF: p. 16

4. The process by which individuals learn the socially defined behaviour appropriate for males and females is called _____.

ANS: gender socialization

REF: p. 14

5. A sense of discomfort or tension felt by one who has difficulty meeting role expectations is called _____.

ANS: role strain

REF: p. 12

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

ANS: Feminist

REF: p. 14

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

ANS: symbolic interactionist

REF: p. 11

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

ANS: Developmental

REF: p. 17

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

ANS: direct observation

REF: p. 22

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

ANS: cohort effect

REF: p. 22

SHORT ANSWER

1. State the difference between legal, social, and personal 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 functionalist theory has been important for our society.

ANS:

Responses will vary.

4. Give one advantage and one disadvantage of symbolic interactionist theory.

ANS:

Responses will vary.

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

ANS:

Responses will vary.

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

ANS:

Responses will vary.

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

ANS:

Responses will vary.

8. Define “gender socialization” 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 society. Also explain why it 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. Explain why statuses and roles are important to understanding interactions within a family.

ANS:

Responses will vary.

4. Compare and contrast the structural functionalist and conflict theories of the family.

ANS:

Responses will vary.

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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.