

## Chapter 1 Family Life Now

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### Multiple-Choice Questions

1) In this model of family studies, Russian-born Uri Bronfenbrenner seeks to understand the multiple influences that affect individuals' and families' development over their lifetime.

- A) Mesosystematic Model
- B) Natural Model
- C) Ecological Model
- D) Social Model

Answer: C

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 21*

*Skill: Factual*

2) This, the outermost layer of Bronfenbrenner's model, reflects the changes that happen over time, such as social and economic discrimination, women's rights to reproductive choice, and the long-held definition of marriage.

- A) exosystem
- B) macrosystem
- C) chronosystem
- D) microsystem

Answer: C

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 24*

*Skill: Factual*

3) "Is the American family in a state of decline, or is it in a state of change?" In their answers to this question family scholars generally

- A) believe it is declining.
- B) believe it is changing for the better.
- C) are mixed, with some saying the family is in decline, while others saying that it is not deteriorating, just changing.
- D) assert that the family is much the same as it was in generations past.

Answer: C

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 9*

*Skill: Knowledge*

4) Similar to African American families, Latino families are also composed of extended kin networks, although Latino families further extend family relationships to fictive, or \_\_\_\_\_ kin.

- A) far-removed
- B) needy
- C) in-law
- D) non-related

Answer: D

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 15*

*Skill: Factual*

5) Within the Asian family structure a greater emphasis is placed on the \_\_\_\_\_ relationship than on the husband-wife relationship.

- A) parent-child
- B) sibling
- C) grandparent-grandchild
- D) work

Answer: A

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 17*

*Skill: Knowledge*

6) The Welfare and Medicaid Reform Act was enacted by which U.S. President?

- A) George Bush
- B) Bill Clinton
- C) Lyndon Johnson
- D) Jimmy Carter

Answer: B

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 4*

*Skill: Factual*

7) Which racial community has the lowest percentage of children living with cohabitating parents?

- A) Hispanic
- B) Asian
- C) White
- D) Black

Answer: B

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 12*

*Skill: Factual*

8) As the United States moved into the second half of the twentieth century, a number of change factors occurred that continue to have an impact on today's twenty-first-century families and family living. Which of the following is NOT one of those changes?

- A) political Factors
- B) social and Cultural Factors
- C) economic Factors
- D) religious Factors

Answer: D

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 13*

*Skill: Factual*

9) Our \_\_\_\_\_ is the family in which we are born or brought into by adoption.

- A) nuclear family
- B) family of origin
- C) family of procreation
- D) step-family

Answer: B

*Diff: 3 Page Ref: 6*

*Skill: Factual*

10) The \_\_\_\_\_ is the family unit that is formed when we marry and produce children.

- A) family of procreation
- B) family of origin

- C) step-family
- D) nuclear family

Answer: A

*Diff: 3 Page Ref: 6*

*Skill: Factual*

11) Which of the following is NOT an element of the nuclear family?

- A) biological mother
- B) biological sister
- C) biological uncle
- D) adopted child

Answer: C

*Diff: 3 Page Ref: 7*

*Skill: Factual*

12) Unmarried partners who live together in a single household are referred to as what?

- A) civil union adherents
- B) pre-marital partners
- C) partners-in-union
- D) cohabiting couples

Answer: D

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 11*

*Skill: Factual*

13) Of all racial and ethnic groups in the United States, these families suffer the highest levels of unemployment and poverty and the lowest median family income—slightly over \$30,000 annually.

- A) African American/Black Caribbean
- B) Latino
- C) Native American/Alaska Natives
- D) Asian

Answer: A

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 14-15*

*Skill: Factual*

14) This term refers to a group of people who are distinguished from another group of people, typically by their skin color, ancestry, or genetics.

- A) culture
- B) race
- C) class
- D) family

Answer: B

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 13*

*Skill: Factual*

15) \_\_\_\_\_ is a social construction that is used to identify groups of people (commonly races) who share common cultural traits, such as religion, customs, dress, and language.

- A) Family
- B) Pod
- C) Phylum

D) Ethnicity

Answer: D

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 13*

*Skill: Factual*

16) In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed into law the Defense of Marriage Act. Which of the following are TRUE statements about this act?

A) It confirms that marriage is a legal union of one man and one woman as husband and wife.

B) It federally mandates same-sex marriage.

C) It forbids states from deciding for themselves whether or not to grant legal status to same-sex couples.

D) All are true.

Answer: A

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 4*

*Skill: Comprehension*

17) \_\_\_\_\_ is a dyadic form of marriage that involves the practice of having one sexual partner. It is also the legal structure of marriage recognized in the U.S.

A) Monogamism

B) Polygamy

C) Monogamy

D) Polygyny

Answer: C

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 5*

*Skill: Knowledge*

18) \_\_\_\_\_ is the belief that monogamy is the only true, morally and socially appropriate type of marriage or love relationship.

A) Monogamism

B) Monism

C) Polygamism

D) Exclusivity

Answer: A

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 5*

*Skill: Knowledge*

19) The practice of having more than one marriage partner is called what?

A) monogamy

B) polygamy

C) androgyny

D) monogamism

Answer: B

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 5*

*Skill: Knowledge*

20) This term refers to the form of polygamy that involves the practice of a man having multiple wives at the same time.

A) polyandry

B) cenogamy

C) monogamism

D) polygyny

Answer: D

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 5*

*Skill: Knowledge*

21) \_\_\_\_\_ is a form of marriage that is often referred to as group marriage. In this type of marital community, every man and woman is married to each other at the same time.

A) Cenogamy

B) Polygamy

C) Polygyny

D) Polyandry

Answer: A

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 6*

*Skill: Knowledge*

22) \_\_\_\_\_ of all Native American households are married couple households.

A) 75%

B) 10%

C) 38%

D) 26%

Answer: C

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 18*

*Skill: Factual*

23) Individuals in these cultures define their identity in terms of the relationships they hold with others.

A) collectivist

B) religious

C) patriarchal

D) individualistic

Answer: A

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 20*

*Skill: Conceptual*

24) \_\_\_\_\_ view themselves as truly independent entities from the society in which they live, and their personal needs and rights guide their behavior, rather than the needs of the society.

A) Preservationists

B) Individualists

C) Collectivists

D) Solitaries

Answer: B

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 20*

*Skill: Conceptual*

25) Which of the following may be family life educators?

A) pastors

B) researchers

C) health professionals

D) all of the above

Answer: D

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 27*

*Skill: Conceptual*

26) With an annual income of almost \$69,000 per year, these families have the highest median household income of all racial groups in the United States.

- A) African American/Caribbean
- B) Latino
- C) Asian
- D) White

Answer: C

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 17*

*Skill: Factual*

27) Married-couple families make up what percentage of American households?

- A) 50%
- B) 24%
- C) 68%
- D) 18%

Answer: A

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 6*

*Skill: Factual*

28) \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the broad spectrum of demographic and philosophical differences among groups of people within a culture.

- A) Collectivist
- B) Diversity
- C) Religiosity
- D) Range

Answer: B

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 7*

*Skill: Conceptual*

29) What is the average number of children in a family household?

- A) 2.4
- B) 3.1
- C) 1.1
- D) 1.9

Answer: D

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 11*

*Skill: Factual*

30) The number of same-sex households has risen \_\_\_\_\_ percent since 1990.

- A) 300
- B) 200
- C) 100
- D) 50

Answer: A

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 12*

*Skill: Factual*

## True or False Questions

- 1) We often experience family living and family life separately from our surrounding environments.  
Answer: FALSE  
Diff: 1 Page Ref: 28  
Skill: Conceptual
- 2) The nuclear family is typically defined as a family unit where two or more generations of close family relatives live together in one household.  
Answer: FALSE  
Diff: 1 Page Ref: 7  
Skill: Factual
- 3) The trend in the American family indicates that single-parent households are on the increase.  
Answer: TRUE  
Diff: 1 Page Ref: 10  
Skill: Knowledge
- 4) Data from all of the 50 states indicates that the U.S. has twice as many single-parent households as two-parent households.  
Answer: FALSE  
Diff: 2 Page Ref: 10  
Skill: Knowledge
- 5) On average, Americans have been having fewer children than in decades past.  
Answer: TRUE  
Diff: 1 Page Ref: 11  
Skill: Factual
- 6) The “Brady Bunch” ideal of the emotionally cohesive, trouble-free, and happily adjusted stepfamily is not normative for American stepfamilies today.  
Answer: TRUE  
Diff: 1 Page Ref: 11  
Skill: Knowledge
- 7) According to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 15 million people live within a cohabitive situation.  
Answer: TRUE  
Diff: 1 Page Ref: 11  
Skill: Factual
- 8) In the 1950’s, the number of pregnant brides more than doubled from the 1940s.  
Answer: TRUE  
Diff: 1 Page Ref: 8  
Skill: Conceptual

9) Nearly one-half of all women ages 15 to 44 are childless.

Answer: TRUE

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 11*

*Skill: Factual*

10) A marriage relationship acquires legal status as soon as it is consummated.

Answer: FALSE

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 3*

*Skill: Knowledge*

11) In the United States, marriage is a legal commitment, not a private bond between the couple.

Answer: TRUE

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 3*

*Skill: Factual*

12) Childlessness levels now are higher than those in the 1930s.

Answer: FALSE

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 11*

*Skill: Factual*

13) On average, Americans have been having more children than in decades past.

Answer: FALSE

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 11*

*Skill: Factual*

14) Latinos place a high value on *familism*, which emphasizes the importance of family life, and close, interdependent relationships among the person, the family, and the community.

Answer: TRUE

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 15*

*Skill: Conceptual*

15) The roots of NA/AN social and clan relationships are by and large *patrilineal*; that is to say, these societies trace their heritage from a male ancestor to a descendent of either sex.

Answer: FALSE

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 18*

*Skill: Conceptual*

## Essay Questions

**Please supply a brief answer to the question provided. The answer may be short (such as a list or phrase), or it may be longer (a paragraph of three to five sentences).**

1) Explain the difference between a “family” and a “household.”

Answer: A family consists of two or more people related by birth, marriage, or adoption residing in the same unit. A household consists of all people who occupy a housing unit regardless of relationship.

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 6*

*Skill: Analysis*



- 2) Explain the social ecology perspective in the study of family members.

Answer: A social ecology perspective recognizes that individual family member's experiences, as well as outside social factors and policies, significantly affect the quality and the nature of their relationships.

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 21*

*Skill: Knowledge*

- 3) Explain the root causes of single-parent households.

Answer: Single-parent families result from either divorce, the death of a spouse, or unmarried parenthood.

*Diff: 3 Page Ref: 10*

*Skill: Conceptual*

- 4) Explain how a stepfamily is formed.

Answer: A stepfamily is formed when, after the death, divorce, or separation of one parent, the other parent marries again.

*Diff: 3 Page Ref: 11*

*Skill: Comprehension*

- 5) What is a "civil union"?

Answer: A social union—often referred to as a civil union—is a legal term that speaks to the commitment, or the marriage contract, made by the partners.

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 3*

*Skill: Conceptual*

- 6) In all likelihood, our definitions of "family" may be entirely different. Why?

Answer: Our definitions of family are based on our unique experiences within our own families.

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 6*

*Skill: Conceptual*

- 7) Define polygyny, and please provide one example from the text.

Answer: Polygyny is the form of polygamy or plural marriage that involves the practice of a man having multiple wives at the same time. In the Islamic and Muslim faiths, polygyny is permitted in the Koran, and its practice is commonplace, with certain limitations. Small pockets of nonconformist Mormons, as well as certain Native American tribes, also practice polygyny.

*Diff: 3 Page Ref: 5*

*Skill: Conceptual*

- 8) Please define polyandry, and supply one example from the text.

Answer: Polyandry is a form of polygamy in which women have multiple husbands at the same time. These husbands are typically brothers. In these relationships, the woman mates with more than one male. Polyandry is common practice in Tibet, where it is considered a wealth-conserving kinship mechanism.

*Diff: 3 Page Ref: 5*

*Skill: Conceptual*

- 9) Please define cenogamy, and provide an example from the text in which cenogamy may be practiced.

Answer: Cenogamy is a form of marriage that is often referred to as group marriage. In this type of marital community, every man and woman is married to each other at the same time. This form of marriage allows promiscuous sexual intercourse among all of its members. This practice is most often found in communal living, such as primitive tribal cultures.

*Diff: 3 Page Ref: 6*  
*Skill: Conceptual*

10) What is an “extended family”?

Answer: The *extended family* is typically defined as a family unit where two or more generations of close family relatives live together in one household.

*Diff: 3 Page Ref: 10*  
*Skill: Conceptual*

11) Compare and contrast the dealing-with-problems/preventing-the-problems focus with a developing-family-potentials focus.

Answer: The dealing-with-problems/preventing-the-problems focuses were early efforts to educate families (arising out of the societal changes of the 1960’s) and centered on social problems facing families and how to deal with them in their context. By contrast, the developing-family-potentials focus attempts to build upon positive aspects of family life and bring about human capabilities that improve and enhance personal life and family living.

*Diff: 3 Page Ref: 25-26*  
*Skill: Analysis*

12) Compare and contrast family of origin and family of procreation.

Answer: Our family of origin is the family into which we are born or brought into by adoption. The family of procreation is the family unit that is formed when we marry and produce children.

*Diff: 3 Page Ref: 6*  
*Skill: Analysis*

13) Explain “matrilineal cultures.”

Answer: These societies trace their heritage from a female ancestor to a descendent of either sex.

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 18*  
*Skill: Conceptual*

14) Is family life education a theory? Please explain.

Answer: Family life education is not a theory but is, instead, best viewed as a lens through which we can study family dynamics in a number of contexts.

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 25*  
*Skill: Conceptual*

15) What is a “nuclear family”?

Answer: The nuclear family consists of a biological father, a biological mother, and their biological or adopted children.

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 7*  
*Skill: Knowledge*

## Essay Questions

**Please give a detailed, in-depth answer to each question. An answer of two to five paragraphs is preferable.**

1) Family life education is multidisciplinary and multiprofessional. Please explain.

Answer: Family life education spans many disciplines. For example, psychologists and social workers may practice as family life educators. It also spans several professions. Religious counselors, such as priests, pastors, and rabbis, may serve as family life educators. In addition to these, health professionals, mental health workers, and researchers also have a key interest in family life education.

*Diff: 1 Page Ref: 27*

*Skill: Comprehension*

- 2) In general terms, define marriage and describe what benefits marriage brings to a couple?

Answer: Marriage is a civil union between two people. Marriage is a legally binding commitment, and brings with it certain advantages. Marriage brings social strength and good standing to couples, as well as economic stability and often spiritual depth. Politically and legally, marriage affirms status and rights to individuals that they otherwise would not have outside of the legal union. Although efforts are being made to change the view, marriage is most widely seen as a union between one man and one woman.

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 2-4*

*Skill: Comprehension*

- 3) To many, marriage is a sacred act. From the text, please discuss the religious aspect of marriage and how it affects society.

Answer: In the Christian, Jewish, Hindu dharma, and Islamic religions marriage is considered to be divinely ordained, a sacred, religious act not to be entered into lightly. In these religions, marriage is viewed as a life-long commitment between a woman and a man. Within these religious communities, the sacrament or act of marriage is believed to be the strongest of all social bonds around which the rest of society is organized. This bond, in turn, “initiates the new generations into the culture and traditions and facilitates further evolution of their civilization. It is the link that joins the past with the present and with the future in such a way that social transition and change can take place through a healthy and stable process.”

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 4-5*

*Skill: Comprehension*

- 4) Central to Bronfenbrenner’s Ecological Model theory is the concept that people develop in a variety of interacting contexts. Define “context,” explain its significance and provide examples of contexts with regards to family studies.

Answer: Contexts refer to areas of individual and family development that play a role in the relationship between people and their environments. These multiple environments surround individuals from birth and play a significant role in development because a person is in constant interaction with these different contexts. In order to truly understand individual behavior and the development of family life, we must first understand the interactive relationships between and among the different variables within the various contexts of development. For example, if we want to study the effects of divorce on a child’s development, we can study the child separately; but we can also introduce or take away various factors within a certain context to better determine which has the greatest impact on the child’s development.

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 21*

*Skill: Knowledge*

- 5) Many factors have influenced our contemporary understanding of family and family life. Explain.

Answer: As the United States moved into the second half of the twentieth century, a number of social and cultural, economic, and political changes occurred that continue to have an impact on today’s twenty-first century families and family living: *social and cultural factors*, such as lowered birth rates and an increase in nonmarital cohabitation; *economic factors* that include the

influx of women into the workforce; and *political factors*, such as legalized abortion in 1973 and the Civil Rights legislation of 1965 which bans racial, ethnic, and sexual discrimination.

*Diff: 2 Page Ref: 13*

*Skill: Analysis*

