

Chapter 2: Understanding Families

Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. In medieval Europe, the family was influenced by _____.

- a. the church
- b. the grandparents
- c. instructional texts
- d. servants

Ans: A

2. In 18th-century England, the family included not only blood relations but also _____.

- a. royalty
- b. servants
- c. pets
- d. friends

Ans: B

3. In 19th-century America, some groups experimented with different forms of families that included _____.

- a. single-parent families
- b. same-sex marriage
- c. polygyny
- d. communes

Ans: C

4. The middle class emerged as a result of the _____.

- a. large number of children in the home
- b. women entering the labor force

- c. Social Security Act
- d. industrial revolution

Ans: D

5. By the end of the 18th century, husbands went to work and wives were expected to stay home. This was known as _____.

- a. the democratic family
- b. the companionate family
- c. the nuclear family
- d. the industrial family

Ans: A

6. By the 20th century, society believed that husbands and wives were partners and married because they loved each other. This was known as _____.

- a. the democratic family
- b. the companionate family
- c. the nuclear family
- d. the industrial family

Ans: B

7. The family that includes a husband, wife, and children in one household is known as _____.

- a. the democratic family
- b. the companionate family
- c. the nuclear family
- d. the industrial family

Ans: C

8. According to Lamanna and Reidmann, the three core concepts that help to define the family include all EXCEPT _____.

- a. an economic unit that provides for its members

- b. two or more people who are attached to the family
- c. people who are committed to maintaining the group over time
- d. people who are related only by ancestry, marriage or adoption

Ans: D

9. According to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service definition, a dependent must meet certain criteria. These include all EXCEPT _____.

- a. must be a U.S. citizen
- b. must have a gross income of less than \$3,000 per year
- c. must be unmarried
- d. must be either a relative or have lived with the claimant all year

Ans: C

10. U.S. Census data reveals that the median age at first marriage _____.

- a. is increasing
- b. is decreasing
- c. has remained the same over the past century
- d. is irrelevant

Ans: A

11. Key findings for the National Marriage Project indicate all the following EXCEPT _____.

- a. Americans are less likely to marry
- b. divorce continues to increase
- c. cohabitation has increased
- d. presence of children in families has declined

Ans: B

12. The theory or perspective that assumes that the family members are part of a group and function as a group is _____.

- a. social exchange theory

- b. symbolic interactionism
- c. family strengths perspective
- d. systems theory

Ans: D

13. The theory or perspective that explains that family members bring to the family unit personal resources that can be used to maintain that unit is _____.

- a. social exchange theory
- b. symbolic interactionism
- c. feminist perspective
- d. systems theory

Ans: A

14. The theory or perspective that views the family as a unique creation of participants as they relate to each other is _____.

- a. social exchange theory
- b. symbolic interactionism
- c. family strengths perspective
- d. conflict theory

Ans: B

15. The theory or perspective that is based on the idea that humans are driven to want certain things, that power is at the core of all social relationships, and that groups have interests that advance their own goals is _____.

- a. family ecological theory
- b. family development theory
- c. family strengths perspective
- d. conflict theory

Ans: D

16. The theory or perspective that emerged in response to a void in the women's point of view and has given attention to gender relations, including both men and women.

- a. family ecological theory
- b. symbolic interactionism
- c. feminist perspective
- d. systems theory

Ans: C

17. The theory or perspective that links science with the lives of families and suggests that change and growth occur through experiences with the outside system is _____.

- a. family ecological theory
- b. family strengths perspective
- c. feminist perspective
- d. systems theory

Ans: A

18. The theory or perspective that focuses not on just solving problems but emphasizing what is working well in the family is _____.

- a. family ecological theory
- b. family strengths perspective
- c. feminist perspective
- d. family development theory

Ans: B

19. The theory or perspective that focuses on the changing social expectations unique to each stage of the family is _____.

- a. conflict theory
- b. family strengths perspective
- c. feminist perspective
- d. family development theory

Ans: D

20. When research results are reported using words or descriptions rather than numbers or percentages, the researcher has used what methodology?

- a. correlation
- b. quantitative
- c. qualitative
- d. experimental

Ans: C

True/False

1. The family is the most basic unit of society.

Ans: T

2. The criteria for inclusion in the 18th-century family was an individual's dependence on the head of the household for basic needs.

Ans: T

3. In America the pre-industrial family was largely a social unit.

Ans: F

4. The modern family worked together to provide their existence within the home.

Ans: F

5. The middle class emerged after the industrial revolution.

Ans: T

6. One definition of the family today would not accurately characterize every family.

Ans: T

7. The traditional or nuclear family symbolizes and represents the American family.

Ans: F

8. According to the Pew Research Center, less than half of all children live with two married parents.

Ans: T

9. According to the Pew Research Center, the marriage rate continues to increase.

Ans: F

10. While interfaith marriages are increasing, certain religious groups are more likely to marry within their faith.

Ans: T

11. Family theory depends on multiple theoretical perspectives.

Ans: T

12. The family systems theory grew out of the general systems theory from the science field.

Ans: T

13. The social exchange theory is based on the verbal exchanges and non-verbal communication within the family.

Ans: F

14. Family members develop a sense of self through the interaction within the family according to symbolic interactionism.

Ans: T

15. The application of the conflict theory challenges the presentation of families as stable, harmonious, and peaceful social units.

Ans: T

16. Although the major focus of the feminist perspective is the experiences of women, the attention has shifted to gender issues that include the experiences of men.

Ans: T

17. One of the criticisms of the family ecological theory is its narrow focus on the white middle-class family.

Ans: F

18. Within the structure of the family strengths perspective are six major qualities that describe strong families.

Ans: T

19. The acceptance of the family development theory is largely due to its inclusion of all types of diverse family structure.

Ans: F

20. The researcher who wants to develop a deeper understanding of a family experience would choose a quantitative methodology design.

Ans: F

Short Answer

1. Explain the difference between the pre-industrial and modern family in America.

Ans: The pre-industrial family was based on economics and provided their own goods, and all members and outside members worked together; the modern family went outside the home for resources, and men worked away from the home and roles were more defined.

2. Describe the two phases of the modern family.

Ans: The democratic family was a separate and private group where they married for love and children were nurtured, and the husband went to work and wives stayed home; the companionate family was one where husbands and wives were partners and married for love.

3. How is the post-modern family of today different than the modern family?

Ans: The modern family had definite roles for husbands and wives where the post-modern family is diverse and is unable to be compared to any form from the past.

4. Define the traditional or nuclear family.

Ans: Husband, wife, and children in one household.

5. Explain why some family living arrangements are seen as a gray area when defining family.

Ans: Although becoming more socially accepted, current legal debate centers on legal rights and regulations.

6. Explain why the traditional or nuclear family does not accurately represent the majority of American families.

Ans: There have been dramatic differences in forms, functions, expectations, and values.

7. What are the basic functions of the family today?

Ans: Sense of belonging, emotional security, provides physical needs, reproduction, socialization.

8. Give an example of an interethnic marriage.

Ans: A marriage where the two partners marry within their ethnic group.

9. Why is religion an important factor within some marriages?

Ans: Religious orientations affect decisions about money, children, social networks, and relationship issues.

10. Explain the difference between a theory and a conceptual framework.

Ans: Theory involves a set of propositions that can be tested or proven to explain a phenomenon; a conceptual framework involves explanations based on personal experience and observation.

11. Give an example of how a family problem can be explained using the family systems theory.

Ans: Any example where the problem of one family member affects all the family members.

12. Discuss how power can increase or decrease within a family when explained using the social exchange theory.

Ans: The more resources one family member brings into the family, the more power they have within the family.

13. How does the idea of symbolic interactionism affect decision-making within a family?

Ans: Shared meanings and identification of roles allows the family to understand the situation and solve the problem.

14. Give some examples of the type of family problems that would benefit from being studied using the conflict theory as a theoretical base.

Ans: Marriage problems, domestic violence, single parenting.

15. Identify the opposition to the feminist theory being used to understand the family.

Ans: Some argue that the theory isolates the role of women in relationships and forgets that both genders should have equality within the family.

16. What are some of the outside systems that cause change and growth to occur within the family using the ecological theory?

Ans: Government, medical, education, social, etc.

17. What is the purpose of identifying the strengths of a family according to the family strengths perspective?

Ans: The emphasis is on using strengths to build a foundation for growth and change.

18. How is time and change measured using the family development theory?

Ans: Each family stage is an interval of time; each stage has roles and relationships that change.

19. How would a study of homelessness be constructed and reported using a qualitative methodology design?

Ans: Interviews or observations would be used to search for patterns; results are reported using words or description.

20. How would a study of homelessness be constructed and reported using a quantitative methodology design?

Ans: Data is collected using an instrument such as a survey and used to find a correlation; results are reported using numbers or percentages.

Essay

1. Compare and contrast the family from prehistoric time until the post-modern family of today.

2. Discuss why there are many definitions for the family. Compare the various definitions for similarities and differences.

3. Discuss the changes that the family is experiencing in terms of structure, functions, and expectations.
4. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the family theories and perspectives and create a new family theory that best describes today's family.
5. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for conducting research from both the quantitative and qualitative methodology. Give examples of the kinds of research questions that would be better suited for each type.