

Chapter 01 : Childhood and Delinquency

True / False

1. The effects on children's cognitive achievement, educational attainment, nutrition, physical and mental health, and social behavior due to poverty are limited.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

2. Research indicates that the daily stress of modern life has little significant impact on American youth as they progress through their teenage years.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

3. Mechanisms to care for children who are destitute or orphaned have only been in existence for approximately 150 years.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

4. Some states grant the juvenile court judge discretion to substitute a status offense for a delinquency charge.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

5. Research has indicated that as a result of deinstitutionalization, children who can no longer be detained are being recycled or relabeled as delinquent offenders in order to house the youth in secure facilities.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

6. Under parens patriae delinquent acts are not considered criminal violations.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

7. The courts have struck down most juvenile curfew laws as unconstitutional.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

8. As soon as they were physically able to do so, children of peasants were expected to engage in adult roles.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

9. The chances of an adolescent with weak academic skills and living in poverty obtaining a college degree is close to 10%.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

10. Early English jurisprudence held that children under the age of 6 were legally incapable of committing crimes.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

11. Voluntary apprentices were bound out by parents or guardians who wished to secure training for their children.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

12. By age 18, many American youths have spent more time watching television shows than they have spent in the classroom.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

13. Fewer children are born today with health risks as compared to 1990.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

14. Physical distance is still a barrier to the frequency and degree of harm perpetrated by a bully on his or her victim.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

15. Minors apprehended for a criminal act are charged with the crime and then adjudicated delinquent.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

16. During the Middle Ages high infant mortality rates kept parents from emotionally bonding with their children.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

17. The Factory Act limited the number of hours children were permitted to work, but did nothing to address school attendance.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

18. Involuntary apprenticeship, indenture, and binding out of children did not become responses to the problems of indigent, delinquent, or orphaned children until the late eighteenth century.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

19. The study of juvenile delinquency involves a variety of social problems faced by youth; it does not extend to the analysis of the various components of the justice system such as law enforcement.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

20. Ego identity and role diffusion are essentially the same concept.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

Multiple Choice

21. As an adolescent, Mandy is undergoing dramatic changes in her height, weight, and sexual characteristics; these changes are occurring at a rate much faster than she will ever again experience in her lifetime. Through what type of change is Mandy going?

- a. Biological
- b. Educational

- c. Psychological
- d. Spiritual

ANSWER: a

22. According to Erik Erikson, what is formed when a person develops a firm sense of self?

- a. Personality
- b. Id formation
- c. Ego identity
- d. Role diffusion

ANSWER: c

23. Which of the following would you say best exemplifies a youth who has been retained in school, is involved with deviant peers, and experiments with drugs?

- a. Economically challenged youth
- b. Latchkey child
- c. At-risk youth
- d. Juvenile delinquent

ANSWER: c

24. What is the term used to describe the reduction in frequency of a youth's offending?

- a. Period of intellectual growth
- b. Maturation cycle
- c. Learning curve
- d. Aging-out process

ANSWER: d

25. Which of the following refers to English statutes that allowed the courts to appoint overseers over destitute and neglected children, allowing placement of these children as servants in the homes of the affluent?

- a. Chancery courts
- b. Welfare houses
- c. Juvenile laws
- d. Poor laws

ANSWER: d

26. Which of the following cases provided the possibility of parole for a youth under the age of 18?

- a. Mapp v. Ohio
- b. Miller v. Alabama
- c. Roper v. Simmons
- d. In re Gault

ANSWER: b

27. English Poor Laws, the apprenticeship movement, and the role of the chancery court are credited with eventually impacting what area involving the rights of children?

- a. Delivery of public education
- b. Emerging juvenile legal system in the United States
- c. Formation of child protection agencies
- d. Family structure and cohesion

ANSWER: b

28. Which generation is described as technology savvy, patriotic as a result of the 9/11 attacks, self-centered, and irresponsible, as well as having an unrealistic view of how the work world functions?

- a. Generation Alpha
- b. Generation X
- c. Generation Y
- d. Generation Z

ANSWER: c

29. What family style is described by a father who rules with complete authority?

- a. Paternalistic
- b. Parens patriae
- c. Matriarchal
- d. Socialistic

ANSWER: a

30. It was reported that nationwide teenage birthrates have declined substantially during the past decade. Which of the following groups has seen the largest decline?

- a. African American
- b. Asian
- c. Hispanic
- d. White

ANSWER: a

31. How does the government define poverty?

- a. \$32,000 a year for a family of four
- b. \$23,000 a year for a family of three
- c. \$23,000 a year for a family of four
- d. \$20,000 a year for a family of three

ANSWER: c

32. Joan is 16 years old and has a habit of staying out past curfew drinking with her friends; she was restricted to her room several times over the summer by her parents as punishment for her behavior. Joan asked her parents if she could go to a back-to-school party with her friends, promising that she would not drink and would be home before curfew. As it was the end of the summer (and even though she was restricted to her room for staying out past her curfew and coming home somewhat drunk the week before) her

parents relented, knowing Joan may not keep her promise. Joan, after drinking with her friends, drove home shortly after curfew. When she was almost home, there was an accident. While Joan suffered very minor injuries, the neighbor's home was not as lucky. Substantial property damage occurred as Joan drove across the neighbor's yard and through their garage door. In addition to demolishing the garage door, there was structural damage to the house and the vehicle parked inside the garage was damaged, as well as the extensive landscaping in the front yard. The airbag in Joan's car deployed, causing the insurance company to consider the car a total loss. The neighbor brought a suit against Joan's parents for damages to their property. Considering parental liability statutes, under which general category would the neighbor's actions fall?

- a. General involvement
- b. Criminal liability
- c. Delinquency liability
- d. Civil liability

ANSWER: d

33. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, what was the primary method of discipline used by teachers to discipline students for academic mistakes and moral lapses?

- a. Wearing a dunce hat
- b. Harsh looks
- c. Dispensed by the father
- d. Flogging

ANSWER: d

34. What was the name of the period that ushered in a new age for childhood and family?

- a. Democratic era
- b. Modern age
- c. Enlightenment
- d. Intellectual period

ANSWER: c

35. Which of the following refers to youths who are spread too thin, experience personal uncertainty, and place themselves at the mercy of people who promise to give them a sense of identity they cannot develop for themselves?

- a. Ego confusion
- b. Role diffusion
- c. Conduct disorder
- d. Identity crisis

ANSWER: b

36. What is the single most effective preventive strategy against adult poverty?

- a. Avoid gangs
- b. Earn a college degree
- c. Avoid substance abuse
- d. Graduate from high school

ANSWER: d

37. Becoming a significant branch of the British legal system, what was created during the fifteenth century to oversee the lives of minor children of the wealthy who were orphaned or unable to care for themselves?

- a. Parens patriae
- b. Chancery courts
- c. Poor Laws
- d. Dower system

ANSWER: b

38. How was the concept of parens patriae was first used by English kings?

- a. To intervene in the lives of children whose parents were peasants and unable to care for them
- b. To intervene in the lives of children who engaged in criminal acts
- c. To intervene in the lives of children whose position and property were of direct concern to the monarch
- d. To intervene in the lives of children who were intellectually challenged and could not care for themselves

ANSWER: c

39. Which of the following is more likely to be killed by firearms than are law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty?

- a. Gang member
- b. Preschooler
- c. High school student
- d. Elementary school student

ANSWER: b

40. Which of the following refers to nineteenth-century reformers who developed programs for troubled youth?

- a. Red Cross
- b. Child savers
- c. Juvenile reform officers
- d. Moral reformers

ANSWER: b

41. In colonial America what legal avenue would permit a youth to be put to death if he or she could not be controlled by his or her parents?

- a. Chancery Court Act
- b. Wayward Minors Act
- c. Parens Patriae Doctrine
- d. Massachusetts Stubborn Child Law

ANSWER: d

42. What philosophical viewpoint encourages the state to take control of wayward children and provide care, custody, and treatment to remedy delinquent behavior?

- a. Best interests of the child
- b. Parens patriae
- c. Wayward Minors Act
- d. Child savers philosophy

ANSWER: a

43. Burke took a gun to school to show his friends and the gun went off, killing a classmate. Burke was not charged because of his age. Under early English jurisprudence how old was Burke?

- a. 6
- b. 8
- c. 7
- d. 5

ANSWER: c

44. In what court case did an appellate court hold that a young child whose developmental immaturity may result in trial incompetence despite the absence of any underlying mental or development abnormality, thus overruling prior case law that held that children must have either a mental disorder or a developmental disability to be deemed incompetent to stand trial?

- a. Miller v. Alabama
- b. In re Gault
- c. Timothy v. Superior Court
- d. Timothy v. California

ANSWER: c

45. What exception allows a judge to send a juvenile to a secure detention facility, in effect criminalizing a status offense?

- a. Waiver exception
- b. Violation of court order exception
- c. Redesignation exception
- d. Commitment exception

ANSWER: b

46. A number of states have experimented with what type of intervention to replace juvenile court jurisdiction over most status offenses?

- a. Increased social control mechanisms such as curfews
- b. Mandatory family counseling
- c. Limiting jurisdiction to third strike status offenders
- d. Community-based treatment programs

ANSWER: d

47. Which of the following best defines the term "waiver"?

- a. The juvenile court equivalent of a guilty plea
- b. The dismissal of all charges that have been brought against a juvenile
- c. A judgment made by the juvenile court to imprison a delinquent
- d. The transferring of legal jurisdiction of juveniles from the juvenile to the adult court

ANSWER: d

48. The disparate findings in status offense research may be the result of the different types of status offenders. Which of the following recommendations were offered in regard to the issue of status offenses?

- a. Divide status offenders into two main groups—first time offenders and chronic offenders
- b. Divide status offenders into three groups—first time offenders, chronic offenders, and those with delinquent as well as status offense records
- c. Dissolve status offenses entirely because of inconsistent research findings
- d. Limit status offenses to first time offenders in order to receive early intervention

ANSWER: b

49. Which of the following terms refers to the practice of setting up a fictitious online profile, most often for the purpose of luring another into a fraudulent romantic relationship?

- a. Phishing
- b. Astroturfing
- c. Cyberstalking
- d. Catfishing

ANSWER: d

50. What legal doctrine was enacted to alleviate the problems of child labor in the early nineteenth century by limiting the hours children were permitted to work as well as the age at which they could begin to work?

- a. Child Labor Act
- b. Education and Work Act
- c. Factory Act
- d. Child Labor and Education Act

ANSWER: c

Completion

51. In Western culture, what was not considered as a distinct period of life until the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries?

ANSWER: Childhood

52. What is the third leading cause of death among young people ages 15 to 24 in the

United States?

ANSWER: Suicide

53. What term is used to describe youths who have been arrested four or more times during their minority and perpetuate a striking majority of serious criminal acts?

ANSWER: Chronic delinquent offenders

54. What agency of the federal government was created to identify the needs of youths and fund policy initiatives in the juvenile justice system?

ANSWER: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

55. What limited ability of very young offenders is taken into consideration when assessing their legal culpability?

ANSWER: Moral reasoning

56. What had far-reaching effects on the position of women in society, forcing them into the role of second-class citizens dependent upon their fathers, brothers, and guardians?

ANSWER: Dower system

57. By what distinction are delinquents and status offenders considered?

ANSWER: Independent concepts

58. As early as 1535, the English passed statutes that allowed the courts to appoint overseers to place destitute or neglected children as servants in the homes of the affluent. What were these laws known as?

ANSWER: Poor Laws

59. What is the process by which juvenile offenders continue in their delinquent careers rather than aging out of crime?

ANSWER: Persistence

60. What focuses on unlocking the potential of youth and families using a variety of residential and nonresidential program models and settings by providing direct services through child welfare, mental health, juvenile justice, and educational systems?

ANSWER: Key Programs

61. What designation became popular at the onset of the twentieth century when the first separate juvenile courts were instituted?

ANSWER: Delinquent

62. In colonial America what laws were passed that required children to obey their

parents?

ANSWER: Stubborn Child Laws

63. By the beginning of the nineteenth century, what system replaced the apprenticeship programs?

ANSWER: Factory

64. Now referred to as status offenders, what was the early legal designation of youths who violated the law because of their minority status?

ANSWER: Wayward minors

65. What living conditions put children at risk of becoming substance abusers as well as contracting sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS?

ANSWER: Homelessness

66. What is formed when youths develop a full sense of the self, combining how they see themselves and how they fit in with others?

ANSWER: Ego identity

67. Nationwide during the past decade, teenage birthrates have declined substantially with the sharpest decline found among what group?

ANSWER: African American girls

68. Rather than use coercion and violence, with whom are Internet predators more likely to meet and develop relationships?

ANSWER: At-risk adolescents

69. When did the family structure and the role of children begin to change?

ANSWER: Middle Ages

70. Which children are significantly more likely to live in poverty?

ANSWER: Children living with a single, female head of household

Essay

71. Who are at-risk youth? How do substandard living conditions contribute to this problem. Would you add other factors to those addressed in the text as putting youth at risk? Provide a rationale for your view.

ANSWER: Troubles in the home, the school, and the neighborhood, coupled with health and developmental hazards, have placed a significant portion of American youth at risk. Youths considered at risk are those dabbling in various forms of dangerous conduct

such as drug abuse, alcohol use, and precocious sexuality. They are living in families that, because of economic, health, or social problems, are unable to provide adequate care and discipline. Millions of children now live in substandard housing—high-rise, multiple-family dwellings—which can have a negative influence on their long-term psychological health. Adolescents living in deteriorated urban areas are prevented from having productive and happy lives. Many die from random bullets and drive-by shootings. Some are homeless and living on the street, where they are at risk of drug addiction and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including AIDS. Today about one-third of U.S. households with children have one or more of the following three housing problems: physically inadequate housing, crowded housing, housing that costs more than 30% of the household income. Despite the fact that the minimum wage has increased to more than \$6.50 per hour, the poor can barely afford to live in even the lowest-cost neighborhoods of metro areas such as Chicago, New York, and Washington, DC. Student answers will vary.

72. Explain parental responsibility laws. What is the criticism of these laws? Do you agree or disagree with such laws? Provide a rationale for your view.

ANSWER: Since the early twentieth century, there have been laws aimed at disciplining parents for contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The first of these was enacted in Colorado in 1903, and today all states have some form of statute requiring parents to take some responsibility for their children's misbehavior. All states make it either mandatory or discretionary for the juvenile court to require a parent or guardian to pay at least part of the support costs for a child who is adjudicated delinquent and placed out of the home. Even when the payment is required, however, it is based on the parent's financial ability to make such payments. During the past decade, approximately one-half of the states have enacted or strengthened existing parental liability statutes that make parents criminally liable for the actions of their delinquent children. These laws can generally fall into one of three categories: Civil liability: An injured party may bring a case against the parents for property damage or personal injury caused by one of their children. Criminal liability: The guardian or other adult may be held criminally responsible for contributing to the delinquency of a minor. These laws apply when an adult does some action that encourages delinquent behavior by a child. General involvement: These statutes are based upon legislative efforts to make parents more involved in the juvenile court process and include requiring the parents to pay for court costs, restitution, and treatment, and to participate in the juvenile's case. Within this general framework there is a great deal of variation in responsibility laws. All states have incorporated parental liability laws in their statutes, although most recent legislation places limits on recovery. Since 1990 there have been at least 18 cases in which parents have been ordered to serve time in jail because their children have been truant from school. Some critics charge that these laws contravene the right to due process, because they are unfairly used only against lower-class and minority parents. Imposing penalties on these parents may actually be detrimental. Forcing a delinquent's mother to pay a fine takes money from someone who is already among society's poorest people. If a single mother is sent to jail, it leaves her children, including those who are not delinquent, with no parent to raise them; the children may become depressed, lose concentration, and be unable to sleep. Even if punishment encourages the parent to take action, it may be too late, because by the time a parent is charged with violating the statute, the child has already committed a crime. Responsibility laws may not take the age of the child into account, leaving important questions unanswered: Are parents of older offenders as equally responsible as

those whose much younger children violate the law? Does an adolescent's personal share of responsibility increase with age? Student answers will vary.

73. Explain how recent social improvements positively impact American youth. What, in your view, is the single most important social improvement? Support your view.

ANSWER: Teenage birthrates nationwide have declined substantially during the past decade, with the sharpest declines among African American girls. In the same period, the teen abortion rate has also declined. These data indicate that more teens are using birth control and practicing safe sex. Fewer children are being born with health risks today than in 1990—this may mean that fewer women are drinking or smoking during pregnancy and that fewer are receiving late or no prenatal care. Since 1990 the number of children immunized against disease has increased. Adolescents are taking fewer risks when they ride in cars: From 1991 to 2011, the percentage of high school students who never or rarely wore a seatbelt declined from 26% to 8%. From 1991 to 2011, the percentage of students who rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days declined from 40% to 24%. The percentage of high school students who had driven a car during the past 30 days when they had been drinking alcohol decreased from 17% in 1997 to 8% in 2011. Since 1999, the percentage of high school students who drank alcohol during the past 30 days decreased from 50% to 39% and, since 1997, the percentage who reported binge drinking (having 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row during the past 30 days) decreased from 33% to 22%. More parents are reading to their children and math achievement is rising in grades 4 through 12. More youths are going to college: college enrollment is now about 21 million and is expected to continue setting new records for the next decade. Almost 30% of the adult population in the United States now has a college degree. Student answers will vary.

74. What is meant by the term status offense? Summarize the history of status offenses. What are your views on status offenses? Do you believe status offenses should be abolished or do you view these offenses as a gateway to delinquency? Support your position.

ANSWER: A child also becomes subject to state authority for committing status offenses — actions that would not be considered illegal if perpetrated by an adult; such conduct is illegal only because the child is underage. For example, more than 40 states now have some form of law prohibiting minors from purchasing, using, or possessing tobacco products. These statutes impose a variety of sanctions, including a monetary fine, suspension from school, and denial of a driver's license. According to data compiled by the FBI, about 250,000 juveniles are arrested each year for status-type offenses such as disorderly conduct, breaking curfew, and violating liquor laws. A historical basis exists for status offense statutes—it was common practice early in the nation's history to place disobedient or runaway youths in orphan asylums, residential homes, or houses of refuge. State control over a child's noncriminal behavior is believed to support and extend the *parens patriae* philosophy because it is assumed to be in the best interests of the child. Typically, status offenders are petitioned to the juvenile court when it is determined that their parents are unable or unwilling to care for or control them and that the offender's behavior is self-destructive or harmful to society. Young teenage girls are much more likely to engage in precocious sex while under the influence of alcohol if they are involved with older teens. Parents may petition their underage daughter to juvenile court if they feel her sexual behavior is getting out of control and they are powerless to stop it.

occurrence. At first, juvenile codes referred to status offenders as wayward minors, sometimes failing to distinguish them in any significant way from juvenile delinquents. Both classes of children could be detained in the same detention centers and placed in the same youth correctional facilities. A trend begun in the 1960s has resulted in the creation of separate status offense categories—children, minors, persons, youths, or juveniles in need of supervision (CHINS, MINS, PINS, YINS, or JINS)—which vary from state to state. The purpose of creating separate status offender categories was to shield noncriminal youths from the stigma attached to the label “juvenile delinquent” and to signify that they were troubled youths who had special needs and problems. Legally, delinquents and status offenders are considered independent concepts, but the distinction between them has become blurred. Some noncriminal conduct may be included in the definition of delinquency, and some less serious criminal offenses occasionally may be included within the status offender definition. Some states grant the juvenile court judge discretion to substitute a status offense for a delinquency charge. Replacing a juvenile delinquency charge with a status offense charge can be used as a bargaining chip to encourage youths to admit to the charges against them in return for the promise of being treated as a (less stigmatized) status offender receiving less punitive treatment. Student answers will vary.

75. Who were the child savers? What influence did they have on the creation of separate juvenile courts? Do you feel separate juvenile courts are viable today? Support your views.

ANSWER: Before the twentieth century, little distinction was made between adult and juvenile offenders. Although judges considered the age of an offender when deciding punishments, both adults and children were often eligible for the same forms of punishment—prison, corporal punishment, and even the death penalty. Children were treated with extreme cruelty at home, at school, and by the law. Over the years, this treatment changed as society became sensitive to the special needs of children. Beginning in the mid-nineteenth century, as immigrant youth poured into America, there was official recognition that children formed a separate group with its own separate needs. Around the nation, in cities such as New York, Boston, and Chicago, groups known as “child savers” formed to assist children in need. They created community programs to serve needy children and lobbied for a separate legal status for children, which ultimately led to the development of a formal juvenile justice system. The current treatment of juvenile delinquents is a by-product of the developing national consciousness during the nineteenth century. The designation “delinquent” became popular at the onset of the twentieth century when the first separate juvenile courts were instituted. The child savers believed that treating minors and adults equivalently violated the humanitarian ideals of American society. The newly emerging juvenile justice system operated under the *parens patriae* philosophy. Minors who engaged in illegal behavior were viewed as victims of improper care, custody, and treatment at home. Dishonest behavior was a sign that the state should step in and take control of the youths before they committed more serious crimes. The state, through its juvenile authorities, should act in the best interests of the child. This means that children should not be punished for their misdeeds but instead should be given the care and custody necessary to remedy and control wayward behavior. It makes no sense to find children guilty of specific crimes, such as burglary or petty larceny, because that stigmatizes them and labels them as thieves or burglars. Student answers will vary.

76. Summarize the four areas identified in the text as problems in cyberspace. What are these areas, how are they defined, and why are they problematic? What are your views on these areas? Should government enact more social controls, and if so, what types of controls, or do you consider these areas rights of passage? Support your position.

ANSWER: Cyberbullying is the willful and repeated harm inflicted through Internet social media sites such as Facebook, blogs, or microblogging applications such as Twitter. Cyberbullies are malicious aggressors who seek implicit or explicit pleasure or profit through the mistreatment of other individuals. It is difficult to get an accurate count of the number of teens who have experienced cyberbullying. Recent research found that more than 20% of the youth they surveyed reported being the target of cyberbullying. Adolescent girls are significantly more likely to have experienced cyberbullying in their lifetime than are boys; girls are also more likely to report cyberbullying others during their lifetime. The type of cyberbullying tends to differ by gender; girls are more likely to spread rumors while boys are more likely to post hurtful pictures. Cyberstalking refers to the use of the Internet, email, or other electronic communications devices to stalk another person. Some predatory adults pursue minors through online chat rooms, establish a relationship with the child, and later make contact. Today, Internet predators are more likely to meet and develop relationships with at-risk adolescents rather than use coercion and violence. Sexting is the distribution of sexually compromising material. A recent survey of 1,560 adolescent Internet users found: About 2.5% had appeared in or created nude or nearly nude pictures or videos 1% of these images contained sexually explicit nudity 7% said they had received nude or nearly nude images of others Few youth distributed these images, so it may be that sexting is not as common as previously believed or that it was a fad that is quickly fading. Catfishing refers to the practice of setting up a fictitious online profile, most often for the purpose of luring another into a fraudulent romantic relationship. The Urban Dictionary refers to a catfish as "someone who pretends to be someone they're not using Facebook or other social media." To "catfish someone" is to set up a fake social media profile with the goal of duping that person into falling for the false persona. Student answers will vary.

77. Discuss childhood in American colonies. How was childhood in the colonies similar to childhood in England? What reasons does the text offer to explain why there were so few cases of reported child abuse during this time? Would you consider any of the reasons that were offered similar to those offered today? Support your view.

ANSWER: The American colonies developed similar concepts as the English chancery courts and Poor Laws to care for orphaned or abandoned children. Poor Law legislation requiring poor and dependent children to serve apprenticeships was passed in Virginia in 1646 and in Massachusetts and Connecticut in 1673. Involuntary apprenticeship, indenture, and binding out of children became integral parts of colonization in America. The master in colonial America acted as a surrogate parent, and in certain instances, apprentices would actually become part of the nuclear family structure. If they disobeyed their masters, apprentices were punished by local tribunals; if masters abused apprentices, courts would make them pay damages, return the children to the parents, or find new guardians. Maryland and Virginia developed an orphan's court that supervised the treatment of youths placed with guardians and ensured that they were not mistreated or taken advantage of by their masters. These courts did not supervise children living with

their natural parents, leaving intact the parents' right to care for their children. In the colonies, as in England, moral discipline was rigidly enforced. "Stubborn child" laws were passed that required children to obey their parents. It was not uncommon in the colonies for children who were disobedient or disrespectful to their families to be whipped or otherwise physically chastised. Children were often required to attend public whippings and executions because these events were thought to be important forms of moral instruction. Parents often referred their children to published works and writings on behavior and discipline and expected them to follow their precepts carefully. Because community and church leaders frowned on harsh punishments, child protection laws were passed as early as 1639. These laws were generally symbolic and rarely enforced; they expressed the community's commitment to God to oppose sin; offenders who abused their children usually received lenient sentences. Although most colonies adopted a protectionist stance, few cases of child abuse were actually brought before the courts. The absence of child abuse cases may reflect the nature of life in what were extremely religious households. Children were productive laborers and respected as such by their parents. Large families provided many siblings and kinfolk who could care for children and relieve stress-producing burdens on parents. Another view is that though many children were harshly punished in early American families, the acceptable limits of discipline were so high that few parents were charged with assault. Any punishment that fell short of maiming or permanently harming a child was considered within the sphere of parental rights. Student views will vary.

78. Explain ego identity and role diffusion. Why would you consider these concepts important to understand? Do you believe these concepts to be related to delinquency and/or problems faced by youth today? Support your views.

ANSWER: Erik Erikson stated that youths may experience a life crisis in later adolescence, at around ages 16 to 18. Erikson labeled this a struggle between identity and role diffusion. Ego identity is formed when youths develop a full sense of the self, combining how they see themselves and how they fit in with others. Role diffusion occurs when youth experience personal uncertainty, spread themselves too thin, and look to others to give them a sense of identity they cannot create for themselves. Psychologists also find that late adolescence is a period dominated by the yearning for independence from parental domination. The mixture of biological change and desire for autonomy during the teenage years creates a time of rebelliousness and conflict with authority at home, at school, and in the community. Such feelings can overwhelm young people and lead them to consider suicide as a "solution." Although most young people do not take their own lives, millions are left troubled, disturbed, and at risk for delinquency, drug use, and other forms of antisocial behavior—acting out or externalized behavior that begins in early adolescence may then persist into adulthood. Study answers will vary.

79. Summarize the system of chancery courts and the concept of *parens patriae*: their development, relationship, and connection to best interests of the child. Do you believe the concept of *parens patriae* is viable today? Support your view.

ANSWER: A system of chancery courts became a significant arm of the British legal system after the fifteenth century. Originally established as "courts of equity" to handle matters falling outside traditional legal actions, these early courts were based on the traditional English system in which a chancellor acted as the "king's conscience" and had the ability to modify the application of legal rules and provide relief considering the

circumstances of individual cases. The chancery courts dealt with the property and custody problems of the wealthier classes. They did not have jurisdiction over children charged with criminal conduct. The chancery courts dealt with issues of guardianship of orphaned children born to wealthy parents. A guardian was appointed to look after the property and inheritance rights of these children until they reached the age of majority and could care for themselves. Chancery court decision making rested on the proposition that children and other incompetents were under the protective control of the king; thus, the Latin phrase *parens patriae* was used. *Parens patriae* referred to the role of the king as the father of his country. The concept was first used by English kings to establish their right to intervene in the lives of the children whose position and property were of direct concern to the monarch. The concept of *parens patriae* became the theoretical basis for the protective jurisdiction of the chancery courts acting as part of the crown's power. Over time the monarchy used *parens patriae* more and more to justify its intervention in the lives of families and children by its interest in their general welfare. The concept of *parens patriae* grew to refer primarily to the responsibility of the courts and the state to act in the best interests of the child. Student answers will vary.

80. What are some reasons offered in the text as to why the study of juvenile delinquency is important? What are your views? Explain why you believe these areas are important.

ANSWER: The problems of youth in modern society are a major national concern, especially when they are linked to juvenile delinquency, or criminal behavior committed by minors. There is an urgent need for strategies to combat such a complex social phenomenon as juvenile delinquency; formulating effective strategies demands a solid understanding of delinquency's causes and prevention. The study of delinquency involves such issues as devising programs to reduce the dropout rate and determining what effect dropping out of school has on delinquency. More than 1.1 million youths are arrested each year for crimes ranging in seriousness from loitering to murder; while most juvenile law violations are minor, some young offenders are extremely dangerous and violent. About 800,000 youths belong to more than 20,000 gangs in the United States; violent street gangs can put fear into an entire city. Youths involved in multiple serious criminal acts are recognized as a serious social problem. The cost to society of these high-rate offenders can be immense. Studies have shown the costs to society of various groups of juvenile offenders, including high-rate chronic offenders who continue to commit serious crimes as adults to be astronomical. Researchers have found that the average cost for each of these offenders is over \$1.5 million, and their cost to society increases as they grew older. The "worst of the worst" of these offenders, who committed 53 known crimes, cost society \$1,696,000 by the time they reached their mid-20s. In all, the high-rate offenders studied had an annual cost to society of over half a billion dollars. Student answers will vary.