

Ch 1 - Making Family Choices in a Changing Society

Multiple Choice

1. From interviews and observations, the authors reveal that:

- a. "family" is one cohesive unit.
- b. most social scientists agree on a definition of "family."
- c. there are many definitions given for "family."
- d. defining "family" is not vital because there are so many definitions.

ANSWER: c

2. Which of the following is NOT listed by your text as a major family function?

- a. raising children responsibly
- b. meeting sexual desires
- c. providing members with economic and other practical support
- d. offering emotional security

ANSWER: b

3. Traditionally, both law and social science specified that the family consisted of people related by

- a. blood, marriage, or adoption.
- b. symbolic definition.
- c. nuptial contracts.
- d. temporary agreement.

ANSWER: a

4. The U.S. Census Bureau defines a family as

- a. any heterosexual or homosexual conjugal union and any children.
- b. two or more persons sharing a household and who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption.
- c. any group of people residing together.
- d. parents, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins

ANSWER: b

5. What is meant by the term postmodern family?

- a. Families today exhibit a multiplicity of forms.
- b. Any family formed after 1960.
- c. A family which is on the cutting edge of technology and current trends.
- d. Families today are more philosophical and reflective.

ANSWER: a

6. As families have become less traditional, the legal definition of a family has

- a. remained the same.
- b. become more rigid.
- c. narrowed to include only married couples and children.

d. become much more flexible.

ANSWER: d

7. The concept of "household" is broader than that of "family" as it includes

- a. pets.
- b. material possessions.
- c. any person residing in the home.
- d. relatives who live far away.

ANSWER: c

8. The Census Bureau uses which of the following terms to describe a person or a group of people residing together?

- a. family
- b. nuclear family
- c. extended family
- d. household

ANSWER: d

9. The definition of family adopted by the authors of this text includes those who do all of the following EXCEPT

- a. form an economic unit and care for any young.
- b. consider their identity to be significantly attached to the group.
- c. have the same name and background.
- d. commit to maintaining that group over time.

ANSWER: c

Scholars and advocates with a _____ perspective point to what they see as a negative cultural change accentuated by excessive individualism and self-indulgence.

10. Scholars and advocates with a perspective point to what they see as a negative cultural change ac...

- a. family change
- b. boomer fat
- c. familistic
- d. family decline

ANSWER: d

11. Those with a "family change" perspective view the family as _____.

- a. declining rapidly
- b. "an adaptable institution"
- c. "a rigid institution"
- d. slowly and steadily getting worse

ANSWER: b

Scholars and advocates with a _____ perspective argue that we need to view the family from a historical standpoint.

12. Scholars and advocates with a perspective point see constant evolution as normal....

- a. family change
- b. pessimistic
- c. familistic
- d. family decline

ANSWER: a

13. Which of the following is attributed to the U.S. by “family-change” scholars?

- a. patriotism as a source of family pride
- b. declining values in family matters
- c. inadequate support for families
- d. rigid traditional ideas of family

ANSWER: c

14. Family change is attributed to which of the following influences?

- a. declining mental health
- b. individuals who do not wish to live in families
- c. hopelessness
- d. economic trends and cultural changes

ANSWER: d

15. A person who believed in the “family-decline” theory might say the following:

- a. “There has been a serious breakdown in marriage and family values.”
- b. “Family life isn’t getting worse, it just adjusts to the times.”
- c. “Families today are better off than in the past.”
- d. “There is no marriage crisis.”

ANSWER: a

16. Someone who is a “family-change” advocate might say the following:

- a. “Our nation is in a crisis; marriages aren’t surviving like they used to.”
- b. “The family is better than ever at adapting to new challenges.”
- c. “Times were much better for families in the ‘50s and ‘60s.”
- d. “Before long, marriage won’t even be around as an institution.”

ANSWER: b

17. Family _____ theorists posit that today’s family forms need to be seen as historically expected adjustments to changing conditions.

- a. decline
- b. social
- c. change
- d. marriage

ANSWER: c

18. Cohabitation has emerged as a lifestyle
- a. that is stigmatized as unhealthy and immoral.
 - b. that is much more common than marriage.
 - c. that continues to be illegal.
 - d. that can be an alternative to marriage.

ANSWER: d

19. The _____ family became common in industrial societies because it was better suited for city life.
- a. blended
 - b. nuclear
 - c. extended
 - d. modified-extended

ANSWER: b

20. Individuals living alone constitute about _____ percent of American households.
- a. 6
 - b. 10
 - c. 27
 - d. 45

ANSWER: c

21. The text reports that _____ percent of marriages were preceded by cohabitation.
- a. less than 10
 - b. about 15
 - c. 25
 - d. over 50

ANSWER: d

22. Many employers have redefined family
- a. to disallow same sex couples.
 - b. in an effort to keep traditional definitions.
 - c. with respect to employee benefit packages.
 - d. to prevent economic uncertainty.

ANSWER: c

23. Compared to 50 years ago, marriage is not as _____ to Americans.
- a. important
 - b. unimportant
 - c. unusual
 - d. unreal

ANSWER: a

In 1957, the total fertility rate was about 3.6 children per woman. For the last 25 years, it has been _____ child/children per woman.

24. In 1957, the total fertility rate was about 3.6 children per woman. For the last decade and a half, ...

- a. less than one
- b. one
- c. around two
- d. about three

ANSWER: c

25. Over the past five decades, fertility in the United States has

- a. stayed about the same.
- b. increased dramatically.
- c. declined.
- d. fluctuated substantially.

ANSWER: c

26. Particularly among college educated women, parenthood is _____.

- a. not an option
- b. postponed
- c. embraced early in life
- d. doubled

ANSWER: b

27. The likelihood of divorce declines with _____.

- a. lower levels of income
- b. fewer economic resources
- c. more years of education
- d. decreased religiosity

ANSWER: c

28. The divorce rate

- a. has been in decline since 1980.
- b. continues to increase over time.
- c. will probably never level off.
- d. will always remain at 50 percent of first marriages.

ANSWER: a

29. Same-sex couple households increased by ____ percent between 2000 and 2010.

- a. 40
- b. 80
- c. 95

d. 50

ANSWER: b

30. Which of the following is true about the age at marriage today?

- a. It is the highest recorded since the 1890 census.
- b. Age at marriage is declining to 1970s levels.
- c. Male's age at marriage has increased, but female's remains lower.
- d. It has remained virtually the same since 1890.

ANSWER: a

Today, only about _____ percent of American households fit the 1950s nuclear family ideal of a married couple with children, where only the husband is employed.

31. Today, only _____ percent of American households fit the 1950s nuclear family ideal of a married couple w...

- a. 5
- b. 10
- c. 25
- d. 33

ANSWER: a

32. A majority of children live in _____ households.

- a. divorced
- b. single-mother
- c. single-father
- d. two-parent

ANSWER: d

33. Compared to the recent past, children are _____ likely to live with a grandparent today.

- a. somewhat less
- b. far less
- c. equally
- d. more

ANSWER: d

About _____ percent of all American children are expected to live in a single-parent household at some point in their lives.

34. About _____ of American children live in single parent families....

- a. 10
- b. 25
- c. 50
- d. 90

ANSWER: b

Many households containing grandparents are _____ family households, which include other relatives besides parents and children.

35. Many households containing grandparents are _____ family households, which include other relatives beside...

- a. modern
- b. nuclear
- c. extended
- d. blended

ANSWER: c

36. Children are _____ likely than the general population or the elderly to be living in poverty.

- a. more
- b. far less
- c. somewhat less
- d. equally

ANSWER: a

37. In the 1950s, the nonmarital pregnancy rate was _____ in comparison with today.

- a. higher
- b. slightly lower
- c. much lower
- d. the same

ANSWER: c

38. The child population of the U.S. is _____ racially and ethnically diverse than the adult population.

- a. equally
- b. more
- c. less
- d. far less

ANSWER: b

39. Over the past several decades,

- a. the divorce rate has declined somewhat.
- b. the rate of nonmarital childbearing has increased.
- c. there has been a dramatic increase in teen birth rates.
- d. changes in the family have basically accelerated.

ANSWER: a

40. What is assisted reproductive technology (ART)?

- a. a new style of painting that is highly sexualized

- b. a counseling course for couples who want to get pregnant
- c. helping parents know how to use technology with their future children
- d. the manipulation of sperm and/or egg in the absence of sexual intercourse that may involve a third party

ANSWER: d

41. What is the impact of communication technologies like e-mail, Skype, and GPS on families?

- a. Technologies force themselves on families.
- b. The impact is unknown at this time.
- c. Communication technologies change the way families interact.
- d. Technology increases the amount of face-to-face time together.

ANSWER: c

42. According to the text, which of the following is NOT a current societal trend impacting families?

- a. new communication and reproductive technologies
- b. changes in America's race/ethnic composition
- c. a great increase in the number of pets in the family
- d. economic uncertainty

ANSWER: c

43. Economic uncertainty caused by _____ is a current societal trend impacting families.

- a. global warming
- b. assisted reproductive technologies
- c. the recession that began in 2007
- d. increased immigration during the last decade

ANSWER: c

44. Individuals' choices depend largely on the _____ that exist in their social environment.

- a. alternatives
- b. defaults
- c. decisions
- d. people

ANSWER: a

45. Which of the following is a path young adults took in response to the recession?

- a. Dropped out of school.
- b. Opted to have children sooner.
- c. Held out for a higher salary.
- d. Postponed marriage.

ANSWER: d

People are influenced by the society around them. Societal or structural conditions can negatively limit or positively _____ our options.

46. People are influenced by the society around them. Societal or structural conditions can negatively l...

- a. dismiss
- b. expand
- c. destroy
- d. belittle

ANSWER: b

47. The text concludes that the best way to make decisions about our personal lives is to make them

- a. by default.
- b. knowledgeably.
- c. unconsciously.
- d. by following the path of least resistance.

ANSWER: b

48. According to the text, over time, cohabitation has become

- a. "mainstream."
- b. "secondary."
- c. "prohibited."
- d. "unlikely."

ANSWER: a

49. Through the lens of social scientific research, individual choices are shaped by

- a. unknown forces.
- b. deep, inner drives.
- c. social factors.
- d. schooling.

ANSWER: c

50. Which is the phrase used to describe economic and social forces that limit personal choices?

- a. media overload
- b. mass confusion
- c. structural constraints
- d. cultural baggage

ANSWER: c

51. According to the text's discussion of how social factors influence people's personal choices,

- a. it is always more difficult to make the common choice.
- b. social factors can limit people's options.
- c. social factors never limit people's options.
- d. some people do not make choices.

ANSWER: b

52. Sometimes we _____ into a decision rather than making a conscious one.

- a. "opt"
- b. "crawl"
- c. "slide"
- d. "grow"

ANSWER: c

53. Deciding about, rather than sliding into, a situation involves looking at the alternatives, not just picking the _____ choice.

- a. acceptable
- b. easiest
- c. basic
- d. difficult

ANSWER: b

54. Which of the following is NOT one of the steps involved with making knowledgeable choices?

- a. Try to avoid making a decision if possible.
- b. Recognize the social pressures that may influence personal choices.
- c. Consider the consequences of each alternative.
- d. Attempt to clarify your own values.

ANSWER: a

55. The emotional dimension of decision making is referred to in the text as the

- a. craziness gene.
- b. gut factor.
- c. ga-ga principle.
- d. no-think dimension.

ANSWER: b

56. Every time people make important decisions, they _____ for that time or permanently.

- a. widen their options
- b. remove responsibility
- c. rule out alternatives
- d. create emotional stability

ANSWER: c

57. If you wanted to make a knowledgeable decision about choosing which class to take,
a. take the first class which is open and will fit your schedule.
b. find out what your friends are taking, and do the same.
c. wait until the last possible minute, and then let your advisor find a class.
d. look through the catalog at all the possibilities, consider what will benefit you in the future, and register early to get the class you consider best.

ANSWER: d

58. What factor may cause a father to make choices about his family by "sliding" into a decision?

- a. Careful consideration of family needs and personal time.
- b. Strong day-to-day pressures on the job cutting into time at home.
- c. Remembering how important his wife and children are to him, and acting on it.
- d. Ignoring the phone, television, and computer in order to talk at the dinner table.

ANSWER: b

Children learn social roles by imitating the behaviors of parents, siblings, and family members through a type of play called _____.

59. Children learn social roles by imitating the behaviors of parents, siblings, and family members thro...

- a. externalization.
- b. mocking caregivers.
- c. secondary education.
- d. role-taking.

ANSWER: d

Parents, siblings and other relatives are usually highly influential in developing a child's _____, or that child's sense of worth and value.

60. Parents, especially, and siblings and other relatives are usually highly influential in developing a...

- a. self-concept
- b. genetic code
- c. nickname
- d. temperament

ANSWER: a

_____ is made up of the ideas and feelings about the uniqueness and value of one's family unit, which often emerges in family traditions, rituals and celebrations.

61. is made up of the ideas and feelings about the uniqueness and value of one's family unit, which oft...

- a. Individualism
- b. A knowledgeable decision
- c. Family identity

d. DNA pool

ANSWER: c

62. Life in American families reflects a tension in American culture between family solidarity and

a. individual freedom.

b. the prenuptial contract.

c. divorce.

d. childlessness.

ANSWER: a

63. Family togetherness, stability, and loyalty are all examples of

a. proscriptive norms.

b. familistic (communal) values.

c. self-fulfillment values.

d. outdated norms.

ANSWER: b

64. Valuing personal happiness and goals and the development of distinct identity is a(n) _____ value.

a. familistic

b. kinship orientation

c. structural

d. individualistic

ANSWER: d

When persons think in terms of seeking primarily personal—as opposed to communal or group—happiness and goals, this reflects which orientation?

65. When persons think in terms of seeking primarily personal-as opposed to communal or group-happiness ...

a. familistic

b. individualistic

c. kinship

d. negotiated

ANSWER: b

66. The text points out that the social institutions of marriage and the family have become _____ since the mid-twentieth century.

a. more predictable

b. more functional

c. less predictable

d. less functional

ANSWER: c

67. Family diversity has progressed to the point that there is
- a. a breakdown in communal values and family bonds.
 - b. ethnic differences in most family members.
 - c. no typical family form today.
 - d. confusion and distress among sociologists about what to study.

ANSWER: c

68. Which of the following reflects the relationship between personal decision making and society?
- a. Personal decisions are impacted by, but also influence, society.
 - b. Society impacts personal decisions, but rarely do our decisions impact society.
 - c. One has no real impact on the other.
 - d. The relationship is too difficult to study.

ANSWER: a

69. Which of the following is NOT one of the four themes of the textbook?
- a. Personal decisions must be made throughout the life course.
 - b. People are influenced by the society around them.
 - c. We live in a society characterized by considerable change.
 - d. Personal decision making has little impact on society.

ANSWER: d

70. We live in a society characterized by _____ change, including increased ethnic, economic, and family diversity.
- a. little
 - b. slight
 - c. considerable
 - d. negligible

ANSWER: c

True / False

71. Maintaining a family requires both commitment and knowledge of what you're doing.
- a. True
 - b. False

ANSWER: True

72. Functional definitions of the family refer to what the family is, while structural definitions emphasize what the family does.
- a. True
 - b. False

ANSWER: False

73. Today, about 40 percent of families fit the 1950s ideal of intact marriage, children, and husband-breadwinner and wife-homemaker.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

74. The most common household type today is that of married couples without children.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

75. Single-person households now represent a quarter of American households.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

76. People have been postponing marriage in recent years.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

77. According to the text, married life is far more complex and difficult than the traditional image commonly portrayed.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

78. Only 50 percent of Americans approve of black-white marriages.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

79. The more common infertility interventions involve prescription drugs and microscopic surgical procedures to repair a female's fallopian tubes or a male's sperm ducts.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

80. As families have become less rigidly structured, people have made fewer choices "once and for all."

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

81. Who we are and our personal decisions and attitudes are a product of our environment.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

82. Some of our choices are not conscious and we "slide" into them.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

83. Conscious decisions are made by carefully weighing options.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

84. Sliding into an option can occur when we choose the path of least resistance or do the easiest thing.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

85. According to the text, you should never listen to the emotional dimension of decision making, sometimes called the "gut-factor."

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

86. The text points out that the best way to make choices is by default.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

87. Life in American families reflects a cultural tension between solidarity and individual freedom.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

88. In a family setting, development and change involve more than one individual.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

89. In a family, one of the things that must be negotiated is personal privacy.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

90. Research shows that parents, siblings, and other relatives influence a child's self-concept, having a profound influence on personal identity.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

91. Personal decision affects our social environment.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

Completion

92. A(n) _____ is any sexually expressive, parent-child, or other kin relationships in which people—usually related by ancestry, marriage, or adoption—form an economic unit and care for any young, consider their identity to be significantly attached to the group, and are committed to maintaining that group over time.

ANSWER: family

93. The U.S. Census Bureau defines a family as two or more persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption who share a(n) _____.

ANSWER: household

94. The _____ family consists of husband, wife, and children in one household.

ANSWER: nuclear

95. Self-indulgence and self-interest has led to family _____.

ANSWER: decline

96. Some family experts do not believe the family is in decline, but focus instead on family

_____.
ANSWER: change

97. The _____ family exhibits a multiplicity of forms, and new or altered family forms continue to emerge and develop.

ANSWER: postmodern

98. _____ involves all the procedures, regulations, attitudes, and goals of programs and agencies, workplaces, educational institutions, and government that affect families.

ANSWER: Family policy

99. _____ are the opportunities one has for education and work, whether one can afford to marry, the schools that children attend, and a family's health care and they depend on family economic resources.

ANSWER: Life chances

100. More Americans maintain _____ families whose members bridge and maintain relationships across national borders.

ANSWER: transnational

101. _____, or economic and social forces, can limit personal choices.

ANSWER: Structural constraints

102. Our individual choices can have an influence on _____.

ANSWER: society

103. The family _____ refers to ideas and feelings about the uniqueness and value of one's family unit, which emerges from traditions and rituals.

ANSWER: identity

104. The contradictory pull of both _____ values creates tension in society.

ANSWER: familistic and individualistic

105. Individualistic values are also referred to as _____ values.

ANSWER: self-fulfillment

Essay

106. Compare and contrast the traditional definition of the family with the postmodern definition preferred by the authors of your textbook. Give examples of how the legal

system, government, and business community have struggled to make decisions about who can be considered part of the family.

ANSWER: Will vary

107. Write an essay in which you compare nuclear family and the postmodern family. How might each of these impact children?

ANSWER: Will vary

108. How does the definition of family have practical and economic consequences for individuals in everyday life? Provide at least two examples utilizing the issues involved.

ANSWER: Will vary

Subjective Short Answer

109. Using the text's discussion as a guide, address the question, "Is the family declining or is the family changing?"

ANSWER: Will vary

110. The text points out that what we think of as "family" has changed dramatically. Explain this statement.

ANSWER: Will vary

111. First, distinguish between personal troubles and societal influences. Give an example of each. Second, distinguish between social influences and personal choices. Give an example of each.

ANSWER: Will vary

Essay

112. Suppose you were faced with a decision about an unplanned pregnancy. Explain the process you would use to choose knowledgeably. Include in your discussion the major components of knowledgeable decision making.

ANSWER: Will vary

Subjective Short Answer

113. The text points out that some choices are made by sliding, while others are made by deciding. Explain the difference and provide at least one illustration of each category.

ANSWER: Will vary

Essay

114. What is family identity? Using your own family, or one with which you are familiar, provide several examples of this phenomenon.

ANSWER: Will vary

Subjective Short Answer

115. What is the difference between individualistic and familistic values? Provide an illustration of each.

ANSWER: Will vary