

Chapter 01

Marriage and Family in America: Needs, Myths, and Dreams

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The family into which people are born is known as their family of:
A. procreation.
B. origin.
C. socialization.
D. substance.

2. The text points out that _____ is a fundamental human need and the source of much of our well being, involving love, affection, caring, and deep attachment to another person.
A. sexuality
B. the desire for attention
C. intimacy
D. marriage

3. The image of the American family as being composed of happy and healthy children, a wife and mother who keeps the home, and a husband and father who is the breadwinner reflects:
A. little of the reality of family life in America.
B. the American family throughout our society's history.
C. American family life since the Industrial Revolution began.
D. the American family only in preindustrial society.

4. When a person has fewer intimate relationships than she desires, this is referred to as:
A. social loneliness.
B. depression.
C. emotional loneliness.
D. alienation.

5. Families that are made up of grandparents, parents, and children together are called:

- A. nuclear families.
- B. extended families.**
- C. families of origin.
- D. single-generation families.

6. The term "nuclear family" refers to:

- A. a three-generation household.
- B. an all-female household, such as grandmother, daughters, and daughters' children.
- C. a husband, a wife, and their dependent children.**
- D. an adult child and an elderly parent living together.

7. According to the text's discussion, love:

- A. is usually absent when people are considering marriage.
- B. is the only reason that people marry.
- C. is rarely the foundation of a good marriage.
- D. can be the outgrowth of a good marriage.**

8. During the child-rearing years, marital satisfaction:

- A. increases dramatically due to parents' greater emphasis on family.
- B. remains much as it was before the birth of the first child.
- C. decreases for one or both spouses.**
- D. increases for most families since the husband and the wife experience increased bonding around the child.

9. According to the text, couples can have:

- A. a great sex life and an unhappy marriage.
- B. an unfulfilling sex life and a happy marriage.
- C. a fulfilling sex life and a happy marriage.
- D. all of the above**

10. In recent years, there has been approximately one divorce for every _____ marriages.

- A. two
- B. three
- C. four
- D. five

11. According to the text's discussion, myths:

- A. are more than simple mistakes.
- B. can detract from the quality of life if they are accepted.
- C. can ruin a good relationship.
- D. all of the above

12. The most recent survey shows that _____ percent of all high-school teenagers have had sexual intercourse at least once.

- A. 11
- B. 25
- C. 35
- D. 48

13. The highest rates of sexual intercourse for teenagers are found among:

- A. Hispanic students.
- B. white students.
- C. African American students.
- D. Multi-racial students who feel marginalized.

14. In 2009, _____ million Americans were living alone.

- A. 10.5
- B. 15.7
- C. 20.1
- D. 31.7

15. In 2007, _____ percent of women who bore children were unmarried at the time of the birth.

- A. 3.5
- B. 13.6
- C. 23.6
- D.** 39.7

16. The text defines _____ as living with someone in an intimate, sexual relationship without being legally married.

- A. cointimacy
- B.** cohabitation
- C. roommating
- D. collaborating

17. By 2008, over _____ unmarried couples were living together.

- A. 500,000
- B. 2 million
- C.** 6 million
- D. 10 million

18. American cohabitation rates since 1960 have:

- A. gone down steadily.
- B. remained stable.
- C.** increased dramatically.
- D. increased in the early 1970s but decreased during the 1980s.

19. The age at which American women are marrying today is:

- A. the lowest it has ever been.
- B. decreasing slightly.
- C. increasing but still young by historic standards.
- D.** the highest it has ever been.

20. By 2008, the birth rate in the United States was less than _____ of what it was in 1910.

- A. one-tenth
- B. one-fourth
- C. one-third
- D.** one-half

21. Today, the birth rate is _____ what is necessary for the natural replacement of the population.

- A.** lower than
- B. approximately the same as
- C. slightly higher than
- D. much higher than

22. By 2008, the average household contained _____ people.

- A. 1.57
- B.** 2.56
- C. 3.57
- D. 4.57

23. The most dramatic increase in the percentage of American women in the work force has been among:

- A. single women.
- B. older women whose children have left home.
- C.** mothers with young children.
- D. divorced women.

24. American divorce rates have followed which of the following patterns?

- A.** They rose during the 1970s but leveled off and began declining during the 1980s.
- B. They have been increasing consistently since no-fault divorce was introduced in the 1970s.
- C. They declined during the 1970s but began rising again precipitously during the 1980s.
- D. They have been among the lowest in the world since the 1950s.

25. The country with the Western world's highest divorce rate is:

- A. England.
- B. Australia.
- C. Israel.
- D.** the United States.

26. Which of the following is proposed by Cherlin as possibilities regarding the future of marriage?

- A. marriage will revert to what it was in the past
- B. marriage will remain important but not dominant
- C. marriage will just be one of many alternative ways of experiencing intimacy
- D.** all of the above

27. Which of the following is defined as things that are preferred because people define them as worthy and desirable?

- A. opportunities
- B.** values
- C. wealth
- D. positive impact

28. Which of the following has supported the expressive individualism of the past few decades?

- A. community organizations
- B. structural sociology
- C.** humanistic psychology
- D. increased volunteer work

29. In a national survey of 14-to 29-year-olds, which of the following received more ratings of "top importance"?

- A. getting married
- B. having sex
- C. having a lifelong partner
- D.** both a and c

30. What percentage of respondents said they speak to a family member who doesn't live with them on an average day?

- A. 53 percent
- B. 63 percent
- C. 73 percent
- D. 93 percent

31. According to the text's discussion of the debate about what Americans need in the way of marriage and family life:

- A. one side argues for the abolition of marriage while the other side argues for the abolition of divorce.
- B. one side claims that marriage and family life should be whatever individuals want, while the other side claims that marriage and family life should be standardized.
- C. one side argues that changes in marriage and the family over the past half-century are to be affirmed and celebrated, while the other side believes that the changes pose a serious threat to individual and social well being.
- D. all of the above

32. According to Glenn's research, one change that has taken place in family attitudes over time is:

- A. decreased enthusiasm for having children.
- B. the decline in the ideal of marital permanence.
- C. increased acceptance of group marriage.
- D. more approval for promiscuity.

33. One consistent research finding when comparing married to unmarried persons is that the married sample is:

- A. happier and healthier than unmarried.
- B. not as happy.
- C. less healthy but happier than unmarrieds.
- D. not as happy or healthy as the unmarried group.

34. The term that means "placing value on family life" is:

- A. self-fulfillment.
- B. famology.
- C. familism.
- D. expressiveness.

35. According to the text, the American value that emphasizes personal achievement is called:

- A. utilitarian individualism.
- B. expressive individualism.
- C. utilitarian familism.
- D. expressive achievement.

36. Levinger characterized marriages that last but do not bring satisfaction with the term:

- A. no-shell.
- B. empty-shell.
- C. half-shell.
- D. full-shell.

37. The theory often applied to marriage that states that groups are composed of individuals who influence each other and must work together to maintain the system is:

- A. exchange theory.
- B. symbolic interaction theory.
- C. systems theory.
- D. triangulation theory.

38. The *definition of the situation* is an important concept in which theoretical perspective?

- A. systems theory
- B. conflict theory
- C. symbolic interaction theory
- D. exchange theory

39. According to _____ theory, individuals come to interaction with differing and even contradictory interests, needs, and goals.

A. functionalist

B. conflict

C. systems

D. symbolic interaction

40. A *social class* is defined in the text as a group of people with similar:

A. income.

B. education.

C. occupational prestige.

D. all of the above