

Chapter 01

Intimate Relationships, Marriages And Families In The Twenty-First Century

Multiple Choice Questions

1. (p. 4) Which of these is not considered a family by the U.S. Census Bureau definition?
A. one-parent family
B. gay or lesbian family
C. cohabiting couple
D. polygamous family

2. (p. 5) Which of these is not considered a family by the definition used in this textbook?
A. gay or lesbian family
B. college roommates
C. polygamous family
D. cohabiting couple
E. grandparent-headed household

3. (p. 5) A _____ is defined as the family into which one is born and in which one is reared.
A. nuclear family
B. family of origin
C. cohabiting family
D. primary family
E. matriarchal family

4. (p. 5) Which of the following is used to refer to the family you establish when you have your own children?

- A. family of origin
- B. nuclear family
- C. family of procreation**
- D. patriarchal family

5. (p. 5) A _____ consists of a father, mother, and their children.

- A. nuclear family**
- B. family of origin
- C. family of procreation
- D. patriarchal family
- E. natural family

6. (p. 5) According to researchers, a(n) _____ is formed when a widowed or divorced person, with or without children, marries another person who may or may not have been married before and who may or may not have children.

- A. broken family
- B. family of origin
- C. binuclear family
- D. extended family
- E. blended family**

7. (p. 5) According to your text, which of the following terms could also be used to refer to a stepfamily?

- A. extended family
- B. binuclear family
- C. blended family**
- D. family of procreation

8. (p. 5) According to your text, a(n) _____ consists of a parent, possibly a mate, and any children of the parent and other relatives who might live in the household or nearby.

- A. nuclear family
- B. extended family**
- C. family of origin
- D. binuclear family
- E. blended family

9. (p. 6) A _____ is defined as one in which the man has more than one wife.

- A. binuclear family
- B. polygynous family**
- C. matriarchal family
- D. polyandrous family
- E. patriarchal family

10. (p. 7) Since 1970 families have become more concerned with meeting the _____ needs of family members.

- A. economic
- B. emotional**
- C. practical
- D. instrumental

11. (p. 7 - 8) One of the most important changes in the family has been a shift in emphasis from marriage for _____ to marriage for _____.

- A. economic security; having children
- B. economic security; love, companionship, and satisfaction of emotional need**
- C. having children; love, companionship, and satisfaction of emotional need
- D. love, companionship, and emotional need; economic security

12. (p. 7 - 8) The traditional purpose of the family was to meet the _____ needs of family members.

- A. expressive
- B. patriarchal
- C. industrial
- D.** physical

13. (p. 8) A patriarchal family is defined as one in which _____.

- A. a man has more than one wife
- B. a married couple lives with their own biological children
- C. an original family is divided into two families by divorce
- D.** the father has authority over all other family members

14. (p. 8 - 9) The 1960s marked a point at which families began to shift from _____ to _____.

- A. matriarchy to patriarchy
- B. democracy to patriarchy
- C.** patriarchy to democracy
- D. patriarchal to matriarchal

15. (p. 9) According to your text, the feminist movement of the 1960s was a major cause of _____.

- A. the rise of matriarchy
- B. a shift to a more traditional view of the family
- C. the child study movement
- D.** families becoming more egalitarian

16. (p. 10) The marriage rate is defined as the number of people who marry

- A. during the preceding 12 months per 10,000 population.
- B. during the preceding 12 months per 1,000 population.
- C.** for the first time during the preceding 12 months per 10,000 population
- D. for the first time during the preceding 12 months per 1,000 population

17. (p. 11) According to the U.S. Census, today's marriage rate is approximately _____.

- A. 4 per 1000
- B. 6 per 1000
- C. 7 per 1000
- D. 10 per 1000

18. (p. 11) According to the U.S. Census, the current marriage rate is _____ the rate right after World War II.

- A. lower than
- B. the same as
- C. more than

19. (p. 11) According to the U.S. Census, at the beginning of the twentieth century, the median age at first marriage started a(n) _____ that ended in the _____.

- A. increase; mid-1950s.
- B. decline; mid-1950s.
- C. increase; year 2000.
- D. decline; year 2000.

20. (p. 11) The median age in 2006 for first marriage was _____ that of the 1980s.

- A. less than
- B. about the same as
- C. higher than

21. (p. 11) The change in the age at which most people are marrying for the first time is not associated with:

- A. longer periods of school enrollment
- B. increased acceptance of non-marital cohabitation
- C. negative attitudes about marriage
- D. more career options for women

22. (p. 11) What is one major consequence of waiting until one's mid to late 20s to get married, according to research findings?

- A. fewer marriage partners will be available
- B.** marriages will tend to last longer
- C. families will be smaller
- D. divorce will be more common

23. (p. 13) According to national statistics, overall fertility rates have been _____ over the last 100 years.

- A. rising
- B. staying about the same
- C.** declining

24. (p. 12) What was the average family size in 2007, according to the U.S. Census?

- A. 2.0
- B.** 2.6
- C. 3.7
- D. 4.5

25. (p. 12 - 13) Which of the following is not indicated by research to be one of the reasons for the decline in family size?

- A.** interracial marriages
- B. availability of contraception
- C. economic conditions
- D. higher divorce rate

26. (p. 13) The fertility rate is highest among:

- A. African Americans
- B.** Hispanic Americans
- C. Asian Americans
- D. Native Americans

27. (p. 14) Data from the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that most employed mothers have _____ at home.

- A. no children
- B. young children (under age 6)
- C. older children (between 6 and 17)**

28. (p. 14) According to the U.S. Census, what percent of mothers who have children under age 6 are employed outside the home?

- A. 40
- B. 50
- C. 60**
- D. 70

29. (p. 14) According to the text, _____ is the major reason for mothers entering the workforce.

- A. financial need**
- B. personal fulfillment
- C. increase in employment opportunities
- D. increase in educational attainment

30. (p. 14) According to the text, women's increasing employment outside the home has resulted in _____.

- A. a larger work load for women**
- B. a more equal sharing of household duties
- C. less time for self-fulfillment
- D. unhappier husbands

31. (p. 15) In the last 30 years, the number of one-parent families has _____.

- A. decreased slightly
- B. decreased significantly
- C. increased slightly
- D. increased significantly**

32. (p. 16) Which ethnic group has the highest number of children living in one-parent families?

- A. non-Hispanic White
- B. Hispanic
- C. non-Hispanic Black**
- D. Asian American

33. (p. 16) According to the text, children in cohabiting families are _____.

- A. generally younger than children of married parents
- B. at higher risk for abuse**
- C. overall happier than children of divorced parents
- D. better off financially than children whose parents are married

34. (p. 16 - 17) Which of the following statements is TRUE about cohabiting couples, according to a recent review of research?

- A. Only about ¼ of cohabiting couples have children.
- B. Most cohabiting couples go on to get married.
- C. Cohabiting couples are more likely to have good marriages.
- D. Cohabiting couples break up more often than married couples.**

35. (p. 18) Same-sex couples who want long-term, committed, and legally recognized relationships have which choice(s)?

- A. civil union
- B. same-sex marriage (in some states)
- C. domestic partnership
- D. A, B, and C**
- E. A and B only

36. (p. 18) According to the text, children in gay or lesbian families _____.

- A. tend to be confused sexually
- B. are rare
- C. are at higher risk for abuse
- D. may come from previous heterosexual relationships**

37. (p. 19) About _____ children in households headed by grandparents.

- A. 6 million
- B. 4 million**
- C. 1 million
- D. ½ million

38. (p. 19) Research has indicated that possible reasons for the increase in the number of grandparent-maintained household include all of the following EXCEPT _____.

- A. higher rates of teen pregnancy
- B. alcohol and/or drug use by parents
- C. incarceration of parents
- D. lack of education**

39. (p. 19) According to the Census Bureau, life expectancy for men has increased from _____ in 1970 to _____ now.

- A. 66; 72
- B. 67; 75**
- C. 70; 75
- D. 77; 80

40. (p. 19) According to the Census Bureau, life expectancy for women has increased from _____ in 1970 to _____ now.

- A. 68; 72
- B. 70; 75
- C. 70; 78
- D. 75; 80**

41. (p. 20) According to the text, families may _____ because of changes in how long people are living.

- A. become smaller
- B. have more responsibilities for elder care**
- C. experience a higher standard of living
- D. see an increase in the divorce rate

42. (p. 21) According to the U.S. Census, the divorce rate in this country is _____.

- A. increasing slightly
- B. increasing significantly
- C. decreasing slightly**
- D. decreasing significantly

43. (p. 21) At the present rate, researchers predict that about _____ of new marriages are likely to end in divorce.

- A. 10-20%
- B. 20-30%
- C. 30-40%
- D. 40-50%**

44. (p. 21) According to the U.S. Census, by age 40, about _____ of people have been married two or more times.

- A. 10%
- B. 20%.**
- C. 30%
- D. 50%

45. (p. 21) The number of blended families has been _____ because of _____.

- A. declining; rising ages at first marriages
- B. declining; lower birth rates
- C. increasing; higher divorce rates**
- D. increasing; higher birth rates

46. (p. 23) Which of these is not characteristic of Hispanic American families?

- A. high fertility rate
- B. traditional marriage relationships
- C. emphasis on individualism**
- D. extended family is a source of strength

47. (p. 23) Although the number of one-parent families is growing among all ethnic groups, the number of such families is highest among:

- A.** non-Hispanic Black families
- B. Asian American families
- C. Hispanic families
- D. Native American families

48. (p. 22) According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the second-largest ethnic group in the U.S. is _____.

- A. non-Hispanic Black
- B.** Hispanic/ Latino
- C. Asian American
- D. non-Hispanic White
- E. Native American

49. (p. 24) Familism is a social pattern in which the interests of the _____ are subordinated to the values and demands of the _____.

- A. family; individual
- B. family; society/ culture
- C.** individual; family

50. (p. 27) The family theory that looks at the family as a social institution is _____.

- A. exchange theory
- B.** structural-functional theory
- C. family developmental theory
- D. symbolic interaction theory

51. (p. 27) Which question might a structural-functionalist ask?

- A. How do family members resolve conflict?
- B.** Is the family's income adequate?
- C. Why were these two adults attracted to one another?
- D. Were these two adults really ready to get married?

52. (p. 29 - 30) The family theory that divides the family experience into phases over the life span and describes changes in family structure and roles at each phase is _____.

- A. exchange theory
- B. conflict theory
- C. family developmental theory**
- D. symbolic interaction theory

53. (p. 29) Which is a question that a developmental theorist might ask about families?

- A. How does the family change when there is a birth?**
- B. Who provides the income?
- C. How do family members communicate?
- D. Why do parents feel overwhelmed sometimes?

54. (p. 31) The family theory that describes the family as a unit of interacting personalities is _____.

- A. conflict theory
- B. structural-functional theory
- C. family developmental theory
- D. symbolic interaction theory**

55. (p. 30) A family therapist using the symbolic interaction theory might examine _____.

- A. whether parents are at risk to be abusive
- B. how family members communicate with one another**
- C. how financially stable the family is
- D. the effect of remarriage on the family

56. (p. 31) Systems theory emphasizes how family members are _____.

- A. problem-solvers
- B. individuals looking to the family unit to meet its needs
- C. contributors to the family's well-being
- D. constantly influencing one another**

57. (p. 31) A family therapist using systems theory would focus on an unhappy family's ____.

- A. communication patterns
- B. conflict resolution skills
- C. adjustment to change
- D.** alliances within the family

58. (p. 31 - 32) Looking at a family from an exchange theory point of view means _____.

- A. seeing how a family changes over time
- B. seeking out answers about child abuse
- C.** looking at how each member gets their needs met
- D. asking how equal each member feels to the others

59. (p. 32) From an exchange theorist's perspective, family members _____.

- A.** both give and take within the family
- B. interact in either functional or dysfunctional ways
- C. are parts of an interacting whole
- D. are constantly adjusting to change

60. (p. 32) Conflict theory focuses on _____ within the family.

- A. destructive communication
- B.** negotiation
- C. sexual satisfaction
- D. sources of abuse

61. (p. 32) Which question might a family therapist using conflict theory ask?

- A. How are you adjusting to this divorce?
- B. Are the children happy in school?
- C.** Who has the power in this family?
- D. How do each of you get your needs met?

62. (p. 32) The feminist perspective focuses primarily on _____ within a family.
- A. sexual adjustment
 - B. the balance of power**
 - C. the division of household responsibilities
 - D. communication
63. (p. 33) Which is not a premise of the International Family Strengths Model?
- A. The qualities that make families robust vary considerably from culture to culture**
 - B. All families have strengths.
 - C. Family strengths can be learned and developed.
 - D. The qualities that make families strong are interconnected.
64. (p. 30) According to the text, the most useful theory for understanding family communication is _____.
- A. conflict theory
 - B. family developmental theory
 - C. exchange theory
 - D. symbolic interaction theory**
65. (p. 29-30) According to the text, the most useful theory in understanding a family's adjustment to change is _____.
- A. conflict theory
 - B. family developmental theory**
 - C. exchange theory
 - D. symbolic interaction theory
66. (p. 31) Which of the following theories best explains the effect of addiction on families.
- A. exchange
 - B. feminist
 - C. systems**
 - D. structural-functional

67. (p. 31) The _____ theory explains how children learn many behaviors and ways of interacting with others.

- A. feminist
- B. structural-functional
- C. exchange
- D.** social learning

68. (p. 33) According to the text, the most common method for learning about families is to _____.

- A. watch them
- B.** ask them questions
- C. study history
- D. do experiments on them

69. (p. 35) Which of the following statements about relationship research is TRUE?

- A. Very little has been done.
- B. Longitudinal research is more valid than cross-sectional.
- C. Validity and reliability are always questionable.
- D.** The most useful results can be drawn from numerous related studies.

True / False Questions

70. (p. 4) The U.S. Census Bureau defines a family as a group of two or more people related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together.

TRUE

71. (p. 4) To meet Winch's definition of family, members must have childbearing as their primary function.

TRUE

72. (p. 8) Throughout most of American history, the American family was matriarchal.

FALSE

73. (p. 10) The marriage rate signifies the number of people who marry within the preceding 12 months per 100 population.

FALSE

74. (p. 7) Primary relationships tend to be superficial and easily replaced.

FALSE

75. (p. 11) The median age at first marriage has decreased since the 1950s.

FALSE

76. (p. 11) According to the text, people today tend to marry later and may experience a period of cohabitation prior to marriage.

TRUE

77. (p. 13) The fertility rate is the number of children a woman is expected to have in her lifetime.

TRUE

78. (p. 16) One of the most common challenges of single-parent families is economic hardship.

TRUE

79. (p. 16) Research indicates that the wife's employment has a major effect on the husband's household responsibilities.

FALSE

80. (p. 17) According to the U.S. Census, almost 40% of all cohabiting couples break off their relationship in less than 5 years.

FALSE

81. (p. 17) According to research, living together before marriage is a good way to prepare for marriage or to avoid divorce.

FALSE

82. (p. 18) Civil unions and domestic partnerships carry all federal benefits and are automatically recognized by other states.

FALSE

83. (p. 19) Research shows that households in which the greatest percentage of children under age 18 live with their grandparents also include their parents.

TRUE

84. (p. 21) According to the U.S. Census, most people who remarry after divorce do so within 3 or 4 years.

TRUE

85. (p. 26) Among Native Americans, family can include members of the household, distant cousins, and clan members.

TRUE

86. (p. 22) One of the biggest changes in families in the U.S. in recent years has been the increase in cultural diversity.

TRUE

87. (p. 22) By definition, a culture can encompass many different ethnicities.

TRUE

88. (p. 22) Ethnicity can be thought of as the way people define themselves as part of a group through similarities in an ancestry and cultural heritage.

TRUE

89. (p. 29-30) A family developmental theorist describes the family as a unity of interacting personalities.

FALSE

90. (p. 27-31) In order to explain family behavior, a systems theory approach looks at a family as a social institution and asks how the family is organized.

FALSE

91. (p. 34) A study may be reliable but still not be valid.

TRUE

92. (p. 33) Only certified family specialists are qualified to do research on families.

FALSE

Short Answer Questions

93. The definition of family presented as the one used throughout the text include what types of family situations not covered by other definitions?

Non-married cohabiting couples and gay or lesbian couples

94. Identify the four causes of the decline of patriarchy and the advent of the democratic family.

The rise of the feminist movement, increase in educational opportunities for women and gradual increase in the percentage of married women working outside the home, the demand for equality of sexual expression and development of efficient contraceptives, the child study movement and emphasis on rights and needs of children as important family members.

95. Identify the major reasons behind the decline in family size during the twentieth century.

Children became a financial burden as families moved from the farm to the city, and women could not take care of large families while working in factories and offices; more efficient means of contraception became available and legal and were used; ecological and demographic concerns relating to world population added to the pressure to keep the birthrate down.

96. One of the most dramatic trends in marriage patterns over the decades has been the postponement of marriage to a later age. How does this impact the lives of couples, as well as society, in general?

Marrying later is associated with economic prosperity and school enrollment. The delay in marriage is also associated with the decline in negative attitudes towards remaining single, a longer life expectancy, smaller families, and more career options for women. People who marry later may also experience a period of cohabitation prior to marriage. Those who wait until they are in their middle or late twenties to marry have a greater chance of marital success than do those who marry earlier.

97. Distinguish among a nuclear, extended, and cohabiting family.

A nuclear family consists of a father, a mother, and their children; an extended family consists of one person, possibly a mate, children, and other relatives who might live in the household; a cohabiting family consists of two people of the opposite sex living together, sharing sexual expression, who are committed to their relationship without formal legal marriage.

98. What factors are related to the change from a patriarchal to a democratic family?

The rise of the feminist movement; increasing educational opportunities for women; the recognition of the sexual capabilities of women; the development of the child-centered family.

99. List three negative outcomes associated with cohabiting before marriage.

It increases the risk of breaking up after marriage; it increases the risk of domestic violence for women; it increases the risk of physical and sexual abuse for children.

100. Compare and contrast same-sex marriage, civil union, and domestic partnership.

All allow all or some of the rights and privileges of heterosexual married couples to same-sex couples. Civil unions require a license and ceremony; they must be ended legally if the couple breaks up (as marriage requires a divorce). Domestic partnerships are not limited to same-sex couples and do not carry as many privileges as civil unions or marriages. Domestic partnerships are more widely available.

101. Distinguish between ethnicity and culture.

Ethnicity is the way people define themselves as part of a group through similarities in ancestry and cultural heritage. Culture is the sum total of ways of living, including the values, beliefs, aesthetic standards, linguistic expressions, patterns of thinking, behavioral norms, and styles of communication a group of people has developed.

102. What are some of the "cautions" in looking at families and practices in other cultures?

There is much similarity across cultures; there is much diversity within groups. It cannot be assumed that all Native Americans are alike, for example or that Native Americans do not share many values with non-Hispanic Whites. It is a mistake to judge others by your group's values.

Essay Questions

103. Discuss the change in the structure and function of the family as it moved from institution to companionship and from patriarchy to democracy.

Answer will vary

104. Outline the basic trends in marriage rates, age at first marriage, birthrates and family size, employment of working mothers, and one-parent families.

Answer will vary

105. Discuss the demographic, social, and attitudinal differences between married women who work outside the home and those who do not.

Answer will vary

106. Discuss the concerns of gay and lesbian parents and their children.

Answer will vary

107. Discuss the benefits and drawbacks for both children and their grandparents of grandparent-maintained households.

Answer will vary

108. Murdock identified four basic functions of a nuclear family. Discuss them in terms of the family's role in American society.

Answer will vary