

Chapter 1

Families and the Sociological Imagination

1.1 Multiple Choice Questions

1) Your family has a special friend that you are very close to, and call "Auntie Marge," even though she is not related to you. You invite her to many family functions, and share many traditions together. Marge is an example of a/an:

A) domestic partner B) fictive kin C) human agency D) family of orientation E) family of procreation

Answer: B

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 5

2) Relationships by blood, marriage, or affection, in which members may cooperate economically, may care for any children, and may consider their identity to be intimately connected to the larger group define a/an:

A) domestic partner B) fictive kin C) empirical relationship D) family E) quantitative method

Answer: D

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 5

3) Which of the following best summarizes the attitudes of U.S. high school seniors towards marriage and family?

A) Both boys and girls believe that a good marriage and family life are extremely important; however, the percentage that thinks so has declined since the early 1980s.
B) Most boys think that cohabiting before marriage is a good idea, but most girls do not.
C) Teenagers are more likely to accept divorce, cohabitation, singlehood, and being childfree as legitimate lifestyles, while at the same time also believing that marriage, children, and a strong family life are important goals.
D) Over two-thirds of boys and girls believe that most people will have fuller and happier lives if they choose legal marriage rather than staying single or cohabiting.
E) Overwhelmingly, teenagers disapprove of divorce.

Answer: C

Diff: 3 Page Ref: 7

4) An organized pattern of social relationships and social institutions that together form the basis of society is called:

A) the sociological imagination
B) social structure
C) comparative perspective
D) human agency
E) family

Answer: B

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 8

5) C. Wright Mills stressed the importance of understanding the relationship between individuals and the society in which they live because many of our personal issues or problems are shaped by social forces. He was referring to something called:

A) the sociological imagination

B) family

C) fictive kin

D) universal programs

E) conflict theory

Answer: A

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 9

6) When one family is uninsured, we are tempted to see it as a private problem; however, when 50 million people are uninsured, it is really a social problem. This is the point of:

A) a focus group

B) the sociological imagination

C) domestic partnerships

D) systems theory

E) micro theories

Answer: B

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 9

7) Brandon traveled to Mexico recently and made fun of the way the poor families lived. "Geez, don't they know that they should do things like we do here in America? Everyone knows our way is best." This is an example of:

A) feminist theory

B) a conservative perspective

C) ethnocentrism

D) the sociological imagination

E) liberal perspective

Answer: C

Diff: 3 Page Ref: 10

8) _____ is a method that answers questions through a systematic collection and analysis of data, including description and a determination of cause and effect.

A) Theory B) Comparative perspective C) Family systems theory D) The means-tested approach E) The empirical approach

Answer: E

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 10-11

- 9) As illustrated in World Map 1.1, a comparative perspective reveals that the U.S.:
- A) has one of the lowest infant mortality rates in the developed world
 - B) has an infant mortality rate similar to Canada, France, and England
 - C) has among the highest infant mortality rates in the developed world
 - D) can show other developed and developing countries how to lower their infant mortality rates
 - E) has primarily universal programs to help combat infant mortality

Answer: C

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 12-13

- 10) Adrian is a researcher doing a detailed study about attitudes and opinions people have about being childfree. She wants detailed information from each person. Which method would be best to use?

A) in-depth interview B) experiment C) observation D) secondary analysis E) survey

Answer: A

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 14

- 11) What are the advantages and disadvantages of an experiment?

A) advantage: good for gathering information about issues that are not directly observed; disadvantage: because the data were collected for another purpose, the researcher cannot control what variables were included

B) advantage: good for exploratory and descriptive study in a natural setting; disadvantage: a potential for a low response rate

C) advantage: group interaction may produce more valuable insights than individual surveys; disadvantage: research must balance roles of participant and observer

D) advantage: saves the expense and time of original data collection; disadvantage: replication of research is difficult

E) advantage: provides greatest opportunity to assess cause and effect; disadvantage: the setting may have an artificial quality about it

Answer: E

Diff: 3 Page Ref: 14

- 12) Jake is analyzing some data collected by the Census Bureau for his senior project. What type of research method is he using?

A) experiment B) secondary analysis C) survey D) in-depth interview E) focus group

Answer: B

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 14

- 13) Macro theories represent a general framework that focuses on:

A) personal dynamics and face-to-face interaction

B) the social interaction between family and members of other groups, and is concerned with the meanings and interpretations that people have

C) the family into which you were born

- D) societal patterns
- E) other societies around the world or other historical periods to see how others organize their social life and respond to its challenges

Answer: D

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 15

14) This theoretical perspective emphasizes issues surrounding social inequality, power, and social change:

- A) developmental theory
- B) structural functionalist theory
- C) conflict theory
- D) micro theory
- E) family systems theory

Answer: C

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 16

15) Which theory is an example of a micro theory?

- A) structural functionalist theory
- B) conflict theory
- C) feminist theory
- D) family systems theory
- E) empirical theory

Answer: D

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 17

16) Structural functionalist theory focuses on:

- A) the social interaction between family members and other groups and is concerned with the meanings and interpretations that people have
- B) gender as the central concept for explaining family structures and family dynamics
- C) collecting data that can be measured numerically
- D) the distinct stages of families and family members with their set of tasks, roles, and responsibilities
- E) all social institutions, including the family, that exist to fill a need in society

Answer: E

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 16

17) A number of changes in families have taken place over the past several decades. These changes include:

- A) both men and women are postponing the age of marriage
- B) the percentage of persons who have never married has increased significantly
- C) the divorce rate has increased
- D) Blacks are the largest minority group in the United States
- E) the teenage birthrate is increasing rapidly, especially among Blacks

Answer: A

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 18

18) There are several different perspectives of family change. Shane believes that the changing economic structure, such as through a loss of high-paying manufacturing jobs or an erosion of the minimum wage, leads to changing family and gendered roles, which ultimately leads to an underclass with extraordinary challenges facing poor children. Shane represents which perspective?

A) conservative B) liberal C) neo-con D) feminist E) developmental

Answer: B

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 20-21

19) The feminist perspective:

A) has nothing in common with the conservative perspective

B) attributes the difficulties children face to sexist parenting practices in the home and in the schools

C) has fallen out of fashion in the 21st century

D) suggests that children face problems because of a lack of cooperation between the community, family, and employment to improve the quality of life

E) believes that gross cultural and moral weakening contributes to father absence and family disorganization through divorce or illegitimacy

Answer: D

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 20-21

20) Compared to other developing nations, the U.S. has a _____ national family policy.

A) strong B) weak C) compassionate D) aggressive E) innovative

Answer: B

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 22

21) A welfare program like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is an example of what type of social program?

A) universal B) focus group C) means-tested D) Maasai E) structural

Answer: C

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 22

22) Jenna and Roberto are debating how the U.S. deals with family policies. Help them out. How does the U.S. compare with other developed nations with respect to family policy?

A) The U.S. is the only developed country without universal health insurance, paid maternity leaves, or family/child allowances.

B) The U.S. tends to have universal programs, whereas other developing countries tend to rely on selective programs.

- C) Programs like the fire department, parks, and public schools tend to be means-tested in the U.S., unlike other countries.
D) Only Germany, Japan, Italy, and the U.S. fail to offer national health insurance.
E) People in the U.S. tend to think more collectively and support more progressive taxation.

Answer: A

Diff: 3 Page Ref: 22-24

23) Carla's husband recently left her and their three children for another woman. He pays no child support, she has few job skills, and is destitute. Therefore she turns to the principal cash welfare program, which is called:

- A) food stamps
B) Social Security
C) social structure program
D) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
E) universal cash

Answer: D

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 24-26

24) A _____ is a major sphere of social life, with a set of beliefs and rules that are organized to meet basic human needs.

- A) sociological imagination B) universal program C) selective program D) life-course E) social institution

Answer: E

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 26-27

25) You, your siblings, and your parents comprise your:

- A) family of orientation B) fictive kin C) family of procreation D) domestic partners E) human agency

Answer: A

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 27

26) You, your spouse, and your children comprise your:

- A) family of orientation B) resiliency C) family of procreation D) domestic partners E) human agency

Answer: C

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 27

27) There are five (5) themes of this textbook. Which is NOT one of them?

- A) Families are both a public social institution and a private personal relationship.
B) Social inequality has a powerful influence on family life.
C) Human agency interferes with family change.
D) Family policies reflect historical, cultural, political, and social factors.

E) Understanding families in the U.S. requires a comparative perspective.

Answer: C

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 27-34

28) How does the ideology of “family” shape perceptions of immigrant children, according to researcher Karen Pyke in the feature box?

A) Immigrant parents and their children become closer as they all try to act “American.”

B) The Mexican families that she interviewed felt that the circumstances surrounding parents’ immigration, particularly whether their immigration was legal or illegal, influences how they socialize their sons more so than their daughters.

C) Parents watch television to observe how American families are supposed to act, and practice their new model of parenthood with their children.

D) The cultural imagery of American families that children see on television is often at odds with many immigrant families and the children denigrate their own families as deficient.

E) Parents panic over the different expectations of families in the U.S. compared to their homeland, and it causes them to be extremely strict with their daughters.

Answer: D

Diff: 3 Page Ref: 28-29

29) The capacity to rebound from adversity, misfortune, trauma, or other transitional crises and become strengthened and more resourceful is called:

A) family protective factors

B) resiliency

C) human agency

D) family of orientation

E) symbolic interaction

Answer: B

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 30

30) Ju-long has overcome a difficult childhood to become a successful college student, a kind friend, and a loving boyfriend. He was, and continues to be insightful, independent, creative, and has a good sense of humor and a strong sense of morality. Within the concept of resiliency, these are known as:

A) ideological factors

B) family recovery factors

C) systems theoretical factors

D) individual-level protective factors

E) developmental factors

Answer: D

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 30

1.2 True-False Questions

1) Your brother-in-law, Bob, is an example of fictive kin.

Answer: FALSE

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 5

2) A "domestic partner" is an unmarried couple, either heterosexual or homosexual, in a long-term committed relationship.

Answer: TRUE

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 7

3) The sociological imagination reveals general patterns in what otherwise might be thought of as simple random events.

Answer: TRUE

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 9

4) According to World Map 1.1, the United States has a low infant mortality rate compared to other developing nations.

Answer: FALSE

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 12-13

5) Min is researching what happens to the health of families when they leave Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). She is collecting data using a series of focus groups, which will offer narrative description rather than numbers. In other words, she is using quantitative methods.

Answer: FALSE

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 11

6) Social exchange theory suggests that individuals are rational and their behavior reflects an evaluation of costs and benefits.

Answer: TRUE

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 16

7) Matthew exemplifies a liberal perspective of family change, and therefore argues that many of the changes in family structure, such as divorce or unwed parenting, cause children to be at risk.

Answer: FALSE

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 20-21

8) Public education is an example of a means-tested program.

Answer: FALSE

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 22

9) Sales tax is an example of progressive taxation, but income tax is not.

Answer: FALSE

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 24

10) Your mom and dad are part of your family of orientation.

Answer: TRUE

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 27

11) Human agency refers to the impossibility of creating viable lives when constrained or limited by social forces.

Answer: FALSE

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 27

12) A strengths perspective focuses on identifying, creating, mobilizing, advocating, and respecting the resources, assets, wisdom, and knowledge that every person and every family has to help ameliorate problems.

Answer: TRUE

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 29-30

13) Nathan Cabrera, in the feature box, shows the importance of community factors in building resiliency.

Answer: TRUE

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 31-32

14) According to the feature box, adolescence among the Maasai lasts much longer than in the U.S.—often until into their mid-twenties.

Answer: FALSE

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 35

15) It is important to study other cultures such as the Maasai because it offers greater insight into our own culture.

Answer: TRUE

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 35

1.3 Short Answer/Fill in the Blank Questions

1) _____ are relationships by blood, marriage, or affection, in which members may cooperate economically, may care for any child, and may consider their identity to be intimately connected to the larger group.

Answer: Families

Diff: 1 Page Ref: 5

2) _____ is the organized pattern of social relationships and social institutions that together form the basis of society.

Answer: Social structure

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 8

3) _____ reveals general patterns in what otherwise might be thought of as simple random events.

Answer: The sociological imagination

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 9

4) A _____ looks at other societies around the world or looks at a culture historically to see how others organize their social life and respond to its challenges.

Answer: comparative perspective

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 9

5) List the four goals of an empirical approach.

Answer: (1) describe some phenomena; (2) examine the factors that predict or are associated with some phenomena; (3) explain cause-and-effect relationships or provide insight into why certain events do or do not occur; (4) understand the meanings attached to behavior or situations.

Diff: 3 Page Ref: 11

6) In _____ methods, the focus is on narrative description with words rather than on numbers to analyze patterns and their underlying meanings.

Answer: qualitative

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 11

7) A theory is defined as:

Answer: a general framework, explanation, or tool to understand and describe the real world.

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 15

8) Which theory examines how individuals' lives change as they pass through the events in their lives, recognizing that many changes are socially produced and shared among a cohort of people?

Answer: Life course perspective

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 17

9) The conservative perspective believes that:

Answer: gross cultural and moral weakening contributes to father absence, which ultimately results in greater poverty, crime, drug use, and other social problems.

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 20

10) The U.S. tends to have _____ social policies and programs, whereas other developed nations tend to have universal policies and programs.

Answer: selective

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 22

11) Progressive taxation refers to:

Answer: people who earn more pay a higher percentage of their income in taxes.

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 24

12) A major sphere of social life, with a set of beliefs and rules that is organized to meet some basic human need, such as the family, political, or educational system is called a _____.

Answer: social institution

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 27

13) A family of orientation is defined as:

Answer: the family into which you were born.

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 27

14) List the five themes of the text:

Answer: (1) Families are both a public social institution and a private personal relationship; (2) Social inequality has a powerful influence on family life; (3) An expanded strengths-based perspective can improve family resiliency; (4) Family policies reflect historical, cultural, political, and social factors; (5) Understanding families in the U.S. requires a comparative perspective.

Diff: 3: Page Ref: 26-34

15) List the four factors discussed in your text that promote resiliency.

Answer: (1) individual-level protective factors; (2) family protective and recovery factors; (3) community strengths; (4) structural-level conditions.

Diff: 3: Page Ref: 30-32

1.4 Essay Questions

1) Define family, and explain why definitions are important.

Page Ref: 5-8

2) Explain what we mean by the sociological imagination, and elaborate on its two primary components.

Page Ref: 8-13

3) Describe the six research methods presented in the text, outlining their advantages and disadvantages.

Page Ref: 11-15

4) Define "theory." List and briefly describe the seven theories that are common in the study of families.

Page Ref: 15-17

5) Compare and contrast the U.S. to other developed countries with respect to family policy. Give examples.

Page Ref: 22-26

6) List the five themes of this textbook and choose two to describe in depth.

Page Ref: 26-34

7) Compare and contrast adolescence among the Maasai with adolescence in the U.S. Why is this comparative approach important?

Page Ref: 33-35