

Chapter 1 Images, Ideals, and Myths

1) Because nearly everyone has experience as a member of a family, it is relatively easy to arrive at an objective understanding of families.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 2

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Conceptual

2) Myths and images about families influence our expectations and assumptions about family life.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 4

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Factual

3) Of all the images of family, the image of family as encumbrance has been around the longest.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 6

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Factual

4) Myths are beliefs that are held uncritically and without examination.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 8

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Factual

5) Fewer than 10 percent of American families consist of a breadwinner husband, stay-at-home wife, and their dependent children.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 11

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Factual

6) The myth of a unified family experience refers to the belief that middle-class and upper-class families differ very little.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 14

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Conceptual

7) Age and gender are key factors influencing an individual's experience of family life.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 14

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Factual

8) The definitions of the terms "household" and "family" are nearly identical.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 11

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Conceptual

9) According to the text, divorce and single parenthood are better viewed as the consequences of social problems rather than the cause.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 17

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Conceptual

10) The field of family studies has experienced very little change over the past thirty years.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 21

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Factual

11) To analyze the family using a sociological perspective, one must

A) promote the nuclear family ideal.

B) understand the larger social context in which families are embedded.

C) engage in micro-level analysis of family interaction.

D) all of the above

Answer: B

Page Ref: 2

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Applied

12) An obstacle to objectivity in studying families is

A) secrecy.

B) mystification.

C) sacredness.

D) all of the above

Answer: D

Page Ref: 3

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Conceptual

13) Using sociologist Erving Goffman's term "backstage area" to describe family points to the idea that

A) family is a haven in a heartless world.

B) family members are always acting out social roles.

C) family is an area of privacy where people are free to act in ways they would not act in public.

D) family is completely severed from public intervention.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 3

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Applied

14) All of the following are distinct family images that have emerged in American culture except

A) family as haven.

B) family as anxiety.

C) family as encumbrance.

D) family as fulfillment.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 5

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Conceptual

15) Love and protection are the two distinct themes in which of the following images of family?

- A) family as haven
- B) family as anxiety
- C) family as encumbrance
- D) family as fulfillment

Answer: A

Page Ref: 5

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Conceptual

16) The image of “family as fulfillment” gives rise to which of the following observations?

- A) The family provides intimacy and personal satisfaction that can be found no where else.
- B) We tend to blame the family for inhibiting full human development.
- C) Family needs are attained through responsibility, duty, and hard work.
- D) Having children is the greatest fulfillment of family life.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 5

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Applied

17) Dorothy Smith refers to the Standard North American Family (SNAF) as

- A) an idealized image.
- B) an insulated two-parent family.
- C) a distortion of reality.
- D) all of the above
- E) none of the above

Answer: D

Page Ref: 7

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Conceptual

18) According to the text, despite changes in family images over time, an enduring theme in popular understanding suggests that

- A) relationships among family members are expected to be stable and harmonious.
- B) family is the locus of competition and violence.
- C) relationships among family members are no longer idealized.
- D) people do not take media images of the family seriously.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 7

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Applied

19) Myths can be described as

- A) beliefs that have little to do with moral values.
- B) beliefs that are held without examination or scrutiny.
- C) beliefs that are often based in actual fact.
- D) beliefs that challenge nostalgic images of the past.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 8

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Conceptual

20) Which of the following statements exemplifies the myth of a stable and harmonious family of the past?

- A) Marital failure and illegitimacy are modern phenomena which did not exist in pre-industrial families.
- B) Families are self-sufficient units relatively free from outside pressures.
- C) Contemporary families are not better or worse than families of the past, only different.
- D) We expect less from family life today than we did in the past.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 8

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Applied

21) The “myth of separate worlds” refers to

- A) the sharp distinction between childhood and adulthood.
- B) the idea that men and women experience marriage differently.
- C) the belief that families of the past and families of the present have nothing in common.
- D) the belief that families operate in isolation from other social institutions such as politics or the economy.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 9

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Conceptual

22) Family Darwinism means

- A) family success or failure is the result of how “fit” a specific family form is.
- B) family relationships are largely determined by genes.
- C) the leader of each family emerges out of a struggle for power.
- D) sibling relationships are shaped by the struggle for power.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 10

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Applied

23) Which of the following argues against the myth of separate worlds?

- A) The experience of working women points to the interrelationship of work and family.
- B) Families interact with institutions such as schools.
- C) Parents share the authority for raising their children with organizations and institutions outside the family.
- D) all of the above

Answer: D

Page Ref: 10

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Applied

24) Globalization

- A) increases the control of nation-states over the welfare of their families.
- B) decreases the control families have over their own members.
- C) decreases the mobility of workers.
- D) all of the above

Answer: B

Page Ref: 11

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Applied

25) The myth of the monolithic family form embodies all of the following features except

- A) the family is nuclear in form.

- B) the family consists of mother, father, and their children.
- C) single parents and their children are identified as families.
- D) the family exhibits a gendered division of labor.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 11

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Conceptual

26) Which of the following is not likely to be a trend among new American families in the near future?

- A) an increase in the percentage of families of color
- B) major involvement with government institutions
- C) an increase in families with a semi-extended family form
- D) rapid economic advancement

Answer: D

Page Ref: 12

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Applied

27) Which of the following factors contributes to increasing diversity among contemporary families?

- A) the large-scale increase of househusbands performing primary domestic responsibilities
- B) the resurgence of the nuclear family form
- C) increasing racial and ethnic diversity
- D) all of the above

Answer: C

Page Ref: 13

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Conceptual

28) The assumption that all family members have common needs, experiences, and meanings is expressed in the myth of

- A) the monolithic family form.
- B) a unified family experience.
- C) family consensus.
- D) separate worlds.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 14

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Conceptual

29) The authors of the text report that the key factor(s) producing different realities for members of the same family household is (are)

- A) gender and age.
- B) level of education.
- C) age and occupation.
- D) an authoritarian parenting style.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 14

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Conceptual

30) Jessie Bernard's classic work on marriage revealed that

- A) quality of marriages declines with number of children.
- B) husbands and wives experience marriage in pretty much the same way.

- C) every marital union actually contains "his and hers" marriages, and the two do not always coincide.
- D) parents have less authority over their children than other societal experts.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 14

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Conceptual

- 31) The concept of the family as a "gendered institution" refers to the notion that
- A) by definition, a family must consist of both male and female members.
 - B) in contemporary families, males and females are no longer affected by sex role expectations.
 - C) gender organizes family practices and distributions of power.
 - D) same-sex marriages are illegal.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 14

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Conceptual

- 32) Marcia Millman's research on family dynamics cited in the text found that
- A) rivalries and conflicts of interest are common in families.
 - B) families use money to achieve social control.
 - C) family relations can be more similar to business relations than different.
 - D) all of the above

Answer: D

Page Ref: 5-6, 14, 17

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Conceptual

- 33) The belief that families operate on the principles of harmony and love, generating very little conflict or violence, is part of the myth of
- A) a monolithic family form.
 - B) separate worlds.
 - C) a unified family experience.
 - D) family consensus.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 15

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Conceptual

- 34) Patriarchy refers to
- A) a religion in which God is male.
 - B) social relations in which men are dominant over women.
 - C) how men inherit property.
 - D) violence committed by men against women.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 14

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Factual

- 35) With respect to violence in families, the authors of your text observe that
- A) violence is found in all families.
 - B) families can be places of both violence and nurturance.
 - C) most families are either violent or nurturing.

D) although American society is filled with violence, the family is one place where it is generally screened out.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 17

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Conceptual

36) Research on family violence finds that

A) most murder cases involve relatives or intimates.

B) women are rarely violent in the context of family.

C) family violence decreased with the popularization of the family as haven image.

D) all of the above

Answer: A

Page Ref: 17

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Conceptual

37) The authors make which of the following points regarding change in American families?

A) We should be alarmed about how family change will affect other social institutions.

B) Changes in families reflect changed circumstances in other areas of society.

C) Family change has caused an increase in the rate of violent crime, but has not influenced the teen pregnancy rate.

D) none of the above

Answer: B

Page Ref: 18

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Applied

38) The myth of family decline as the cause of social problems suggests that the family is in serious trouble primarily due to

A) the entry of so many women into the labor force.

B) the negative effects of high rates of television viewing.

C) increasing numbers of fatherless families.

D) the secularization of American society.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 17

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Applied

39) The authors of the text make which of the following points about the effects of divorce on children?

A) Divorce is tearing apart the fabric of society.

B) Analysts sometimes overstate evidence on the negative effects of divorce and ignore evidence finding that most children from divorced families do quite well.

C) The effects of divorce on children should not be seen as negative in any way.

D) none of the above

Answer: B

Page Ref: 19

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Applied

40) Which of the following is a component of a macro level analysis of families?

A) a focus on internal dynamics of nuclear families

B) a focus on the ways structures such as race, class, and gender shape families

C) a focus on relationships in extended families

D) none of the above

Answer: B

Page Ref: 20

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Applied

41) The basic assumptions scholars use in studying the social world is called a(n)

A) structure.

B) image.

C) myth.

D) paradigm.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 21

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Conceptual

42) Talcott Parsons and other structural functionalists argued

A) diverse family forms are an essential feature of modern life.

B) the nuclear family is the “normal family” in modern society.

C) a “Big Bang” in family life occurred during the 1960s.

D) families are less and less important in modern society.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 21

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Applied

43) The social locations of families are affected by

A) class.

B) race.

C) gender.

D) all of the above

E) none of the above

Answer: D

Page Ref: 22

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Factual

44) When we say that family diversity is “relational” we mean that

A) families involve social relationships.

B) good relationships ought to be the family ideal.

C) extended families are becoming more common.

D) the forms families take are related to the different forms other families take.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 22

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Applied

45) The structural diversity model holds that

A) human agency is no match for the larger forces of society.

B) we should study human agency rather than social forces.

C) families adapt to and may change their social environment.

D) families are becoming less diverse.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 23

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Applied

46) Describe the dominant images of families found in the media. Discuss how these images affect our assumptions and expectations about family life.

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Applied

47) Discuss the myth of separate worlds. What evidence does the text offer to counter the public sphere - private sphere dichotomy?

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Applied

48) What is the distinction between “household” and “family?” How has divorce changed the way we think about family ties?

Difficulty: Hard

Type: Applied

49) Contrast the myth of family decline as the cause of social problems with the authors’ discussion of social problems and family change. How does the authors’ understanding of the relationship between these concepts differ from the relationship found in this myth?

Difficulty: Hard

Type: Applied

50) A friend contends that recent changes in family life in the United States are attributable to changing family values. Respond to this individual using a sociological perspective.

Difficulty: Hard

Type: Applied

Chapter 2 Preindustrial Families and the Emergence of a Modern Family Form

1) Family history has only recently emerged as a subfield in the discipline of history.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 30

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Factual

2) Social history focuses primarily on the lives and experiences of upper-class individuals.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 30

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Factual

3) In the colonial United States, neighbors and other community members frequently intervened in family matters.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 37

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Factual

4) Pre-industrial families, in addition to other roles, were also seen as “welfare institutions,” providing different kinds of welfare service.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 36

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Factual

5) In colonial America, romantic attraction was the primary basis for the selection of a spouse.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 41

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Factual

6) Evidence suggests that colonial children in New England were more sternly reared than those in other regions.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 43

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Factual

7) Society’s conception of childhood is one of the things that did not change with the emergence of the modern family.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 43

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Factual

8) With the transition to the wage economy, households began to incorporate a variety of non-kin members.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 45
Difficulty: Easy
Type: Factual

9) The wage economy greatly increased women's access to productive work.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 48
Difficulty: Medium
Type: Factual

10) The shift from pre-modern to modern family life was a transitional process that occurred slowly and unevenly.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 34, 44
Difficulty: Medium
Type: Factual

11) Hareven's research on patterns in family history concludes that

- A) families are passive victims of social change.
- B) community involvement is rare among early colonial families.
- C) there is not a uniform pattern of change among all families toward a more modern level.
- D) all immigrant groups have similar patterns of adjusting to family life in the United States.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 35, 46, 48
Difficulty: Medium
Type: Applied

12) Social historians studying U.S. families of the past have focused primarily on

- A) the diaries of upper-class people.
- B) the experiences of ordinary people.
- C) the Industrial Revolution.
- D) the image of family in the media.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 30
Difficulty: Easy
Type: Factual

13) The most important themes to emerge from historical studies of the family are all except which of the following?

- A) the diversity in family types
- B) the uneven change in family patterns
- C) an ever-increasing divorce rate
- D) the social agency of family members

Answer: C

Page Ref: 31
Difficulty: Medium
Type: Conceptual

14) The research technique that brings together scattered information about family members in successive generations is referred to as

- A) family revisionism.
- B) aggregate data analysis.
- C) family genealogy.
- D) family reconstitution.

Answer: D
Page Ref: 30
Difficulty: Easy
Type: Conceptual

- 15) The technique used by family historians whereby several historical documents are used to create a composite picture is called
- A) content analysis.
 - B) record linkage.
 - C) multiple regression.
 - D) variable analysis.

Answer: B
Page Ref: 32
Difficulty: Easy
Type: Conceptual

- 16) Aggregate data analysis refers to the research method that
- A) involves population-level analysis of family trends.
 - B) uses only oral history accounts of older people.
 - C) studies the artifacts of an individual family history across generations.
 - D) focuses on the history-making activities of the upper classes.

Answer: A
Page Ref: 30
Difficulty: Medium
Type: Conceptual

- 17) The “godly family” refers to
- A) an egalitarian family.
 - B) a three-generation family.
 - C) the family form created by industrialization.
 - D) a patriarchal form of family life.

Answer: D
Page Ref: 35
Difficulty: Easy
Type: Factual

- 18) The family-based economic system characterized life during
- A) the colonial period of the United States.
 - B) the Industrial Revolution.
 - C) the early twentieth century.
 - D) the emergence of the household as a private sphere.

Answer: A
Page Ref: 36
Difficulty: Easy
Type: Factual

- 19) Which of the following accurately describes family life in colonial America?
- A) Sharp boundaries existed between family and community life.
 - B) Family privacy was complete—communities did not get involved in family matters.
 - C) Men, women, and children worked in a household enterprise to ensure family survival.
 - D) all of the above

Answer: C
Page Ref: 36
Difficulty: Medium

Type: Factual

20) All of the following were functional roles of the colonial family except

- A) family as school.
- B) family as church.
- C) family as encumbrance.
- D) family as house of correction.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 36

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Factual

21) An example of community intervention into family matters wherein wayward individuals were subject to public ridicule and punishment is

- A) the mystification.
- B) the primogeniture.
- C) the charivari.
- D) the familial time.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 37

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Conceptual

22) Contemporary scholars describe the size of colonial families as

- A) smaller than contemporary families.
- B) unknown, because historic documents are unreliable on this subject.
- C) much larger than previously thought.
- D) smaller than many have assumed, but larger than today's families.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 38-39

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Conceptual

23) Nancy Cott's research on divorce in the colonial United States was important in that it

- A) underscored the public-private split in social life.
- B) proved that marriages were much more sound in colonial times than in the contemporary United States.
- C) showed that only upper-class individuals got divorces.
- D) showed that much information on values, attitudes, and practices can be found in court records.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 37-38

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Applied

24) Colonial children's lives were dominated by the "three Rs." Which of the following is not one of these "three Rs?"

- A) Religion
- B) Repression
- C) Respect
- D) Recreation

Answer: D

Page Ref: 42

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Factual

25) Which of the following characterizes marriage in the colonial period of U.S. history?

- A) Romantic love was the basis of the marriage relationship.
- B) Decision making was largely shared by the husband and the wife.
- C) Marriage was primarily an economic union.
- D) Incompatibility and lack of affection were viewed as grounds for divorce.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 45

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Factual

26) Which of the following does not characterize child rearing in the colonial period of the United States?

- A) Children were sometimes viewed as miniature adults.
- B) Child rearing practices were more genteel outside New England.
- C) Corporal punishment was viewed as appropriate.
- D) Children were viewed in a sentimental way.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 43

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Factual

27) The gender ratio in the colonial United States was such that there was

- A) a shortage of women.
- B) a great need for women's economic participation.
- C) frequent remarriage among women.
- D) all of the above

Answer: D

Page Ref: 41

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Conceptual

28) The term primogeniture refers to

- A) the likelihood that children from more than one marital union would be cohabiting in the same household.
- B) the public chastising of wayward individuals.
- C) the transfer of the family land to the oldest son.
- D) none of the above

Answer: C

Page Ref: 40

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Conceptual

29) All of the following characterized family life in the colonial United States except

- A) families were organized around the principle of patriarchy.
- B) community members frequently intervened in family matters.
- C) romantic love among spouses and nurturance of children were the norm for family relationships.
- D) fathers were actively training and tutoring their children.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 37, 40, 42

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Factual

30) According to Coontz, marriages in 17th century England and Ireland

- A) were often carefully negotiated.
- B) could be more costly to families if young people were drawn together by love.
- C) involved the expectation that wives would tolerate their husbands' infidelity.
- D) all of the above

Answer: D

Page Ref: 41

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Applied

31) The form of economic system that emerged with the industrialization of society has been referred to as the

- A) consumer-based economy.
- B) family-wage economy.
- C) family-based economy.
- D) nuclear family economy.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 45

Difficulty: Easy

Type: Conceptual

32) During the time of transition to modern family life

- A) families took on an increasing number of social functions.
- B) families began to be sustained by members' wages.
- C) the majority of married women with children took jobs in factories.
- D) household boundaries expanded, incorporating a greater number of nonfamily individuals.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 45

Difficulty: Hard

Type: Factual

33) As the family ceased to be a center of production during industrialization,

- A) an increasing number of young children were sent away from home to work.
- B) it ceased to function efficiently.
- C) it took on specialized functions of procreation, child-rearing, and consumption.
- D) its educational function increased.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 42, 47

Difficulty: Hard

Type: Applied

34) The privatization of family living that accompanied industrialization resulted in

- A) family activities being less observable to the larger community.
- B) a decline in external social control over family behavior.
- C) the fostering of an ethic of individual rights.
- D) all of the above

Answer: D

Page Ref: 46

Difficulty: Hard

Type: Applied

35) The modern family form

- A) emerged primarily in White middle- and upper-class families.
- B) emerged essentially the same in both working-class and middle-class families.
- C) emerged in African American and Native American as well as White families.
- D) was essentially an image, not widely embraced by any class or race.

Answer: A
Page Ref: 51
Difficulty: Easy
Type: Factual

- 36) According to the text, which of the following demographic changes was influential in the transition to the modern family?
- A) The chronic shortage of women ceased to exist.
 - B) The infant mortality rate dropped sharply.
 - C) Many women delayed childbearing into their late 20s.
 - D) Women began bearing fewer children, spaced them more closely, and stopped child bearing at a younger age.

Answer: D
Page Ref: 46-47
Difficulty: Hard
Type: Conceptual

- 37) During the period of the emergence of the modern family, the phrase “angels of the house” referred to
- A) women.
 - B) children.
 - C) visiting nurses.
 - D) none of the above

Answer: A
Page Ref: 49
Difficulty: Easy
Type: Conceptual

- 38) Which of the following is not one of the effects of industrialization on middle-class women’s roles?
- A) Women became the moral guardians of the home.
 - B) Married women increased their participation in the public sphere.
 - C) Caretaking and nurturing became primary roles.
 - D) Women’s and men’s roles overlapped far less than in the preindustrial United States.

Answer: B
Page Ref: 49
Difficulty: Hard
Type: Applied

- 39) The emergence of literature on child rearing in the 19th century is related to
- A) growing concern about the negative effects of urbanization on children.
 - B) the increasing involvement of fathers in day to day care-giving.
 - C) the growing child-centeredness of family life.
 - D) alarm about mounting evidence of the association between mental illness and strict parenting.

Answer: C
Page Ref: 50
Difficulty: Hard
Type: Applied

- 40) Which of the following statements represents a major theme in contemporary family history?
- A) Diversity among families was virtually nonexistent until the beginning of the 19th century.
 - B) Families are active agents of change.
 - C) Change in family form has been uniform across all races and classes in U.S. society.
 - D) Economic factors had little effect on family life in the colonial United States.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 44, 47

Difficulty: Hard

Type: Conceptual

41) Which of the following describes the status of women in colonial and emerging modern families?

A) During the colonial period, wives were subordinate to husbands but as the modern family emerged, relations became egalitarian.

B) During the colonial period, spousal relations were egalitarian but women were subordinated with the emergence of the modern family.

C) During both periods relations were patriarchal, with wives subordinate to their husbands.

D) none of the above

Answer: C

Page Ref: 40

Difficulty: Hard

Type: Applied

42) Discuss how the work of family historians in recent decades has contributed to our understanding of family diversity.

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Applied

43) Contrast the relationship between husbands and wives in the emergent modern family with their relationship in the colonial United States.

Difficulty: Hard

Type: Applied

44) Contrast societal assumptions about children during the colonial period with those that emerged with the modern family.

Difficulty: Hard

Type: Applied

45) Discuss the role of communities in family life prior to and after industrialization. What implications do changes have for the behavior of people in families?

Difficulty: Medium

Type: Applied

46) What are the primary functions of privatized industrial families? How do they differ from functions of families in the colonial period?

Difficulty: Hard

Type: Applied