

CHAPTER TWO – TW 5e

Multiple Choice

1. Statements about relevant contexts, a set of general propositions, statements that connect the propositions, and have the capability to be tested or applied in a way to determine if it is useful are all elements that capture which of the following concepts?
 - a. assumption
 - b. research method
 - c. measurement
 - d. theory*

2. Sam is conducting a study of the Britton family. By applying a theoretical foundation, he will be able to make a guess at how effective family members will be at conflict resolution based on their patterns of interaction. This demonstrates which of the following goals of theory?
 - a. prediction*
 - b. social change
 - c. understanding
 - d. explanation

3. Which of the following is the best description of a model?
 - a. A method for sorting out raw data to make sense of it.
 - b. A concrete set of ideas illustrated in systematic order.
 - c. A visual or verbal representation of a related phenomena.*
 - d. A list of categories, or types, that are subsets of a larger construct and are distinguished by dimensions, qualities, or characteristics.

4. Which of the following intellectual traditions is based on the view that truth is subjective and co-created by family members?
 - a. positivistic/empirical
 - b. interpretive*
 - c. critical tradition
 - d. theoretical tradition

5. Emily wants to study the ways that divorced parents maintain relationships with one another following the separation. She decides to survey divorced parents who are similar in all aspects except in the amount of physical distance that separates them. Which approach has Emily employed?
 - a. positivistic*
 - b. interpretive/hermeneutic
 - c. critical tradition
 - d. theoretical tradition

6. Which dimension of time refers to family experiences (e.g., before Jack and Diane got married, before Noah was born, after Dad had a stroke, etc.) as a way to divide time?
 - a. calendar time
 - b. clock time

- c. multidimensional family time
- d. social process time*

7. The Miller family references time in terms of Karmon and Alan's wedding, the birth of Chase, and the death of Uncle Mike. Which type of time is used to understand the changes in the Miller family?

- a. clock time
- b. calendar time
- c. social process time*
- d. family life event time

8. Steven Mintz argues that the difficulties sustaining a marriage can be explained by unique aspects of contemporary culture. Which of the following best illustrates his argument?

- a. There is a tension between the commitment required in a marriage and modern society's emphasis on self-fulfillment.
- b. Modern society has added a lot of expectations onto the marriage relationship (e.g., lover, best friend, etc.).
- c. People now live further away from their extended family, which means there is less social support available to the married couple.
- d. All of the above are reasons Mintz has provided to explain the difficulties in sustaining a marriage.*

9. Which of the following describes Systems Theory?

- a. Systems Theory assumes all systems share certain characteristics.
- b. Systems Theory focuses on recurring patterns that allow for prediction of family behaviors.
- c. System Theory examines the component parts of a system to provide explanations for family behaviors.
- d. All of the above describe Systems Theory.*

10. From a systems theory perspective, "ambiguous boundaries" refer to which of the following?

- a. the uncertainty regarding the limitations associated with being a member of a subsystem within the family
- b. the "blurred" areas in which a family is unsure of how to divide its subsystems
- c. the uncertainty about who is and is not a part of the family system*
- d. a lack of knowledge regarding the homeostasis of the family

11. Marcia and her partner decided to foster a child. This decision impacts all members of the family unit. Which of the following components of Systems Theory best explains this?

- a. interdependence*
- b. wholeness
- c. hierarchy
- d. equifinality

12. Which of the following theoretical approaches focuses on the meaning-making aspect of family communication that is ignored by the systems approach?

- a. Social Construction Theory*
- b. Revised Developmental Theory
- c. Dialectic Approach
- d. Revised Systems Theory

13. Which theoretical approach is best suited to study the stories the families tell?

- a. Systems Theory
- b. Dialectic Approach
- c. Developmental Theory
- d. Social Construction Theory*

14. Latricia has recently moved away to attend college. While she enjoys the freedom of being able to stay out as late as she wants, she finds that she misses the late-night conversations she would have with her mother upon returning home from a date. Latricia is experiencing which of the following dialectical tensions?

- a. novelty and predictability
- b. openness and protection
- c. autonomy and connection*
- d. disclosing and silencing

15. The Juarez family is extremely close and the members do not pursue their own relationships outside of the immediate family. Which strategy for managing the dialectical tension of closeness and autonomy best describes the Juarez family?

- a. segmentation
- b. selection*
- c. cyclic alteration
- d. integration

16. Which of the following is NOT one of the assumptions of family development theory?

- a. The process of family development is goal directed.
- b. Necessary conditions and tasks must be met and accomplished during one stage before the family can move on to the next stage.
- c. The process of family development is a linear one.
- d. As individual family members develop, the family will maintain a sense of stability.*

17. When researchers blend qualitative and quantitative methodologies, it is known as which of the following?

- a. surveying
- b. triangulation*
- c. textual analysis
- d. experimentation

18. The systematic manipulation of an independent variable(s) or order to determine its effect on a dependent variable(s) is known as which of the following?

- a. qualitative research
- b. triangulation

- c. textual analysis
- d. experimental research*

Short Answer/Essay Questions

1. Discuss the implications (both positive and negative) of applying theory to the study of family communication.
2. Describe the three intellectual traditions that impact the values, goals, and style of a researcher. Which intellectual tradition would be most appealing to you if you were a researcher? Why?
3. Explain Systems Theory as it applies to the family. Describe the six elements which are central to Systems Theory.
4. If a researcher were to adopt Social Construction Theory as the foundation for her/his research, how would s/he go about investigating family communication? Provide a specific example of a study that could be conducted by applying this approach.
5. Describe the Dialectical Approach to understand families. Explain and give examples of each of the following dialectical tensions in the family described in the text.
6. Explain the limitations of the four family theories that were covered in the text. As a researcher, what might you do to correct those limitations?
7. Compare and contrast qualitative and quantitative methods of inquiry and provide specific examples of each.