

## Chapter 2 Problems of the Family

### *Social Problems, 10e (Coleman/Kerbo)*

1) A family that includes grandparents, parents, and children is called:

- A) nuclear.
- B) neofunctional.
- C) extended.
- D) polygamous.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 27

2) One advantage of the extended family is greater:

- A) freedom for the young.
- B) support and protection for individual members.
- C) independence for women.
- D) emphasis on romantic love.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 28

3) Which of the following statements are true?

- A) The nuclear family is the dominant type in industrial societies.
- B) The nuclear family has no role as a mechanism of social control.
- C) The ideal in the nuclear family is that mate selection is at the discretion of the parents.
- D) The nuclear family provides for more adults being involved in the rearing of children.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 27-28

4) In the last four decades, the average age at marriage has:

- A) increased.
- B) decreased.
- C) remained the same.
- D) substantially decreased.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 29-30

5) By 1998, what percentage of all married women were employed outside the home?

- A) 28%
- B) 61%
- C) 50%
- D) 75%

Answer: D

Page Ref: 31

6) It is estimated that \_\_\_\_\_ percent of gay men and \_\_\_\_\_ percent of all lesbians live with a partner.

- A) 25/50
- B) 50/75
- C) 35/70
- D) 50/85

Answer: B

Page Ref: 31

7) Which of the following are reasons for the lower marriage rate of African American women?

- A) deteriorating labor market for young black males
- B) low death rate among African American males
- C) young black females are more likely to be in prison than members of other groups
- D) high standards required for an African American husband

Answer: A

Page Ref: 32-33

8) Which of the following statements about divorce are NOT true?

- A) It is more common among the poor than among the wealthy.
- B) The most common time for a divorce to occur is after 8 to 9 years of marriage.
- C) A teenage marriage is almost three times more likely to end in divorce than a marriage of partners over 30.
- D) African Americans are about 18 percent more likely to be divorced than white Americans.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 33-36

9) Which of the following is true of divorced families?

- A) The standard of living for the husband decreases while that of the ex-wife increases.
- B) Divorced fathers who want custody of their children often get it.
- C) Children of divorce are less likely to drop out of school.
- D) The standard of living for the husband increases while that of the ex-wife decreases.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 33-36

10) The causes of the increase in divorce do NOT include:

- A) changes in the law.
- B) changing attitudes toward divorce.
- C) greater economic independence of women.
- D) a decline in the importance placed on romantic love.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 33-36

- 11) Andrew Cherlin's study of 20,000 children whose parents were divorced found that they:
- A) had no more behavioral and psychological problems than other children.
  - B) tended to develop serious behavior and psychological problems after the divorce, but were no different than other children before the divorce.
  - C) had serious behavioral and psychological problems which started long before the divorce actually occurred.
  - D) tended to develop deep psychological psychosis two years after the divorce.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 35

- 12) A blended family is:
- A) a marriage in which one or both partners already have children.
  - B) a marriage between two people from widely different ethnic backgrounds.
  - C) a family which has adopted children from a different ethnic group than their own.
  - D) two families that have joined together to create an extended family.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 36

- 13) Which of the following statements is true?
- A) The birthrate for single women has remained constant for the last 40 years.
  - B) American teenagers are less likely to use birth control than European teens.
  - C) More than half of all births are now to single women.
  - D) The birthrate is about the same for single white women as it is among single black women.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 37

- 14) Straus, Gelles, and Steinmetz's survey concluded that:
- A) roughly a quarter of husbands and wives admit that there has been violence between them.
  - B) their survey overestimated the incidence of violence between husbands and wives.
  - C) families that attempt to share decision making power tend to be more violent.
  - D) violence actually occurs in some form in about 80 percent of all marriages.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 38-39

- 15) According to the text, a comparison of the rates of child abuse in a survey first done in 1975 and repeated in 1985 found:
- A) an increase of 83 percent.
  - B) an increase of 9 percent.
  - C) a decrease of 47 percent.
  - D) that the percentage stayed about the same.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 39

- 16) Which of the following is NOT a common explanation of child abuse?
- A) parental frustration and stress
  - B) lack of emotional expression by parents
  - C) abusive parents learned that behavior when they were abused as children
  - D) impulsiveness, immaturity, and depression

Answer: B

Page Ref: 39-40

- 17) Gil's study of officially reported cases of child abuse found:
- A) it to be more common in single-parent homes.
  - B) it to be equally common in all classes.
  - C) that fathers beat their children more often than mothers.
  - D) that child abuse occurs almost entirely among young children.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 39

- 18) According to the text, raising children so they can take over for those who grow old and die is:
- A) no longer a function of the family.
  - B) a function that has been given to the educational system.
  - C) the most critical function of the family.
  - D) a function that has been taken over by religious institutions.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 40

- 19) In 2004, what percentage of American children lived below the poverty line?
- A) 10.1%
  - B) 17.3%
  - C) 27.6%
  - D) 33.4%

Answer: B

Page Ref: 40

- 20) Wells and Rankin concluded that children from single-parent families are \_\_\_\_\_ to become delinquent than(as) children from two parent families.
- A) about twice as likely
  - B) 10 to 15 percent more likely
  - C) about equally likely
  - D) 10 to 15 percent less likely

Answer: B

Page Ref: 41

21) The General Accounting Office estimates that \_\_\_\_\_ American children run away from home every year.

- A) 50,000
- B) 100,000
- C) 500,000
- D) 1 million

Answer: D

Page Ref: 42

22) According to the text, children who are forced to fend for themselves because their families no longer want them are called:

- A) runaways.
- B) delinquents.
- C) pushouts.
- D) status offenders.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 42

23) Which of the following was NOT presented in the text as a means of reducing family conflict?

- A) family counseling
- B) ignoring differences that might start arguments
- C) greater gender equality
- D) an open honest airing of disagreements

Answer: B

Page Ref: 42-44

24) Which of the following is NOT part of the replacement function of the family?

- A) socialization of the young
- B) status ascription
- C) economic support for the elderly
- D) economic support for children

Answer: C

Page Ref: 47-48

25) Functionalists agree that the prosperity and even the survival of contemporary society depend on:

- A) continued economic growth.
- B) a strong military-industrial complex.
- C) the strength of its family system.
- D) a strict adherence to traditional values.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 47-48

26) Conflict theorists argue that the family:

- A) is the most basic social institution.
- B) should give more emphasis to romantic love.
- C) support and protects women.
- D) should have greater equality.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 48-49

27) Conflict theorists are concerned about the effect that \_\_\_\_\_ has on the family.

- A) romantic love
- B) political manipulation
- C) class conflict
- D) gender conflict

Answer: C

Page Ref: 48-49

28) From the feminist perspective, the traditional family is:

- A) an exploitative institution organized for the benefit of the husband.
- B) the most basic social institution.
- C) necessary to provide replacement members for society.
- D) supportive and protective of women.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 49

29) Which of the following is not recommended by interactionists to help deal with today's family problems?

- A) a return to the ideal of romantic love
- B) encouraging more realistic expectations about marriage
- C) maintaining supportive kinship networks
- D) none of the above

Answer: A

Page Ref: 49-50

30) \_\_\_\_\_ have linked faulty socialization to problems ranging from mental disorders to juvenile delinquency.

- A) Functionalists
- B) Conflict theorists
- C) Feminists
- D) Interactionists

Answer: D

Page Ref: 49-50

31) Although the family is universal to all human societies, its form varies greatly from one to another.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 27

- 32) Most agricultural societies have a nuclear family system.  
Answer: FALSE  
Page Ref: 28
- 33) Children are considered to be an economic asset in industrial societies, but not in agricultural societies.  
Answer: FALSE  
Page Ref: 27-28
- 34) Approximately one in every four American children now lives in a single parent family.  
Answer: TRUE  
Page Ref: 31
- 35) The divorce rate in America is now about average among industrialized nations.  
Answer: FALSE  
Page Ref: 33-34
- 36) The amount of child abuse reported to authorities is on the rise, but this probably reflects a growing awareness of the problem rather than an actual increase in child abuse.  
Answer: TRUE  
Page Ref: 38-41
- 37) A "pushout" refers to a husband who is forced to leave his wife because her children from a previous marriage refuse to accept him.  
Answer: FALSE  
Page Ref: 42
- 38) The total amount of leisure time enjoyed by the average American has increased significantly since the 1970s.  
Answer: FALSE  
Page Ref: 43
- 39) Many functionalists believe that the family is the most basic social institution.  
Answer: TRUE  
Page Ref: 47
- 40) Conflict theorists argue that the high unemployment rate among men in the lower classes encourages the breakup of many families.  
Answer: TRUE  
Page Ref: 48-49
- 41) Discuss the difficulties in establishing a specific definition of family.
- 42) According to the text, many people still have an idealized picture of the "normal" family. Describe this "normal" family and discuss how this myth is perpetuated.
- 43) Discuss the changing patterns of the family. What trends are forecast for the future of the family patterns?

- 44) Discuss the rising birthrate among single women for most of this century. What do sociologists believe to be the more immediate causes of this increase?
- 45) Discuss the two major reasons given by the text for the indifference of law enforcement when dealing with domestic violence.
- 46) Discuss the pattern of divorce over the last century in the United States. What do sociologists predict will happen in the future?