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SKU: 9780393639322-TEST-BANK

Chapter 2: The Family in History

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Humans' increased longevity over time is largely the result of
   a. genetic changes.
   b. government policy.
   c. standard of living.
   d. education.

   ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: 2.0 The Family in History
   MSC: Remembering

2. Which of the following is an important broad historic trend impacting the character of American family life?
   a. decreased longevity
   b. families performing fewer functional tasks at home
   c. increased family size
   d. decline of the two-parent nuclear family

   ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: 2.0 The Family in History
   MSC: Remembering

3. Archaeologists' discovery of Stone Age family burials in Europe was sociologically significant because
   a. ancient people survived by only living in biologically related groups.
   b. unlike today, children were weaned earlier and learned to fend for themselves.
   c. different family arrangements were honored, not just the nuclear family.
   d. mothers waited to have additional children to ensure each child survived.

   ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: 2.1 Early History
   MSC: Evaluating

4. The pervasive element of European and American society in which men controlled all property and had control over women and children is called
   a. sexism.
   b. matriarchy.
   c. patriarchy.
   d. traditional society.

   ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: 2.1 Early History
   MSC: Remembering

5. Respect for elders, reliance on extended family networks, and matrilineal descent are characteristics of which early American groups?
   a. Native Americans
   b. African Americans
   c. European colonists
   d. Asian Americans

   ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
   MSC: Remembering

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6. A type of family in which people are considered descendants of their mothers is called
   a. matriarchal.
   b. matrilineal.
   c. feminist.
   d. polygamous.

   ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
   MSC: Remembering

7. In what way was the ideology of patriarchy reinforced by Protestant doctrine?
   a. Protestant doctrine emphasized obedience to authority.
   b. Marriage was modeled after Old Testament patriarchs.
   c. Husbands were commanded by God to protect their wives.
   d. The idea of free choice in marriage reflected the idea of a person's relationship with God.

   ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
   MSC: Evaluating

8. Which of the following represents the distant role of government in family matters during colonial times?
   a. Christian doctrine in family matters
   b. stem family
   c. heterogamy
   d. dowry

   ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
   MSC: Analyzing

9. A young man named Todd marries his long-time girlfriend Ayodele. What are they practicing?
   a. heterogamy
   b. homogamy
   c. dowry
   d. courtship

   ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: 2.1 Early History
   MSC: Applying

10. _____ were the most powerful group in early United States society, enforcing cultural standards through political and economic power.
    a. Africans
    b. Asians
    c. Europeans
    d. American Indians

    ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
    MSC: Remembering

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11. Elizabeth Thomas owns a small farm and generates income by selling vegetables and meat at the local market. When she marries, her citizenship is incorporated into her husband's, and he now owns her farm and income. What describes this practice?
    a. courtship
    b. coverture
    c. polygamy
    d. separate spheres

    ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
    MSC: Applying

12. Colonial children were not considered innocent and were controlled through strict discipline and hard work, due primarily to which social force?
    a. economic necessity
    b. religious belief
    c. poor health
    d. poor education

    ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
    MSC: Evaluating

13. Most colonial households were made up of
    a. nuclear families.
    b. extended families.
    c. fictive kin.
    d. companionate marriages.

    ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
    MSC: Remembering

14. In the early United States, most enslaved children lived with
    a. grandparents.
    b. unrelated adults.
    c. one parent.
    d. both parents.

    ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
    MSC: Remembering

15. It is difficult for historians to know which aspects of family life among enslaved Africans were African traditions because
    a. no records were kept.
    b. language and customs were suppressed.
    c. this part of slave history has not been studied.
    d. customs and traditions varied widely among slaves.

    ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
    MSC: Understanding

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16. The period of rapid change brought about by democracy and industrialism created a conservative backlash in the nineteenth century because
    a. conservatives believed that women's freedom threatened the traditional family.
    b. women were demanding egalitarian marriages instead of separate spheres.
    c. women became the primary economic contributors of the family.
    d. the emotional aspects of marriage were replaced by political and economic functions of marriage.

    ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
    MSC: Analyzing

17. As mate selection became less a matter of economics and status and more an emotional endeavor, young people began the practice of
    a. arranged marriage.
    b. dating.
    c. cohabitation.
    d. courtship.

    ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
    MSC: Understanding

18. During the nineteenth century, how did the idea of childhood change?
    a. Childhood came to be understood from the Calvinist notion that children harbored evil spirits that needed to be crushed.
    b. Fathers were more likely to rule the household as authorities due to their newfound power in the workplace.
    c. Children were seen as fundamentally innocent.
    d. Conformity was emphasized, leaving little room for individuality.

    ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
    MSC: Understanding

19. The ideology that dictates that women are naturally ideal for homemaking is known as
    a. industrialization.
    b. separate spheres.
    c. wage gap.
    d. monogamy.

    ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
    MSC: Remembering

20. In the nineteenth century, government authority expanded into family life by
    a. regulating marriage and citizenship.
    b. outlawing divorce.
    c. requiring men to be faithful to their wives.
    d. allowing other religions to influence political policies.

    ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
    MSC: Analyzing

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21. In a male-dominated wage economy, orphans and widows were commonly
    a. cared for by extended families.
    b. aided by an emerging welfare system.
    c. taken in by churches.
    d. homeless.

    ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
    MSC: Remembering

22. African American families in the late nineteenth century had which of the following qualities?
    a. greater gender equality
    b. stronger marriages
    c. weaker extended family networks
    d. no legal recognition

    ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
    MSC: Understanding

23. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 cut off new immigration from China, which resulted in
    a. unmarried Chinese men.
    b. split-household families.
    c. discrimination against Chinese.
    d. poverty among the Chinese.

    ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
    MSC: Remembering

24. The idealized "traditional" nuclear family, consisting of male breadwinner and female homemaker, was the most common arrangement
    a. throughout American history until the 1970s.
    b. beginning in the mid-twentieth century.
    c. throughout human history.
    d. only during colonial times.

    ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: 2.4 The Modern Family
    MSC: Remembering

25. In the early 1900s, the reasons for marriage began to change. This cultural shift is known as
    a. religious to personal.
    b. economic to romantic.
    c. institution to companionship.
    d. endogamy to exogamy.

    ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: 2.4 The Modern Family
    MSC: Understanding

26. An extended family guided by the authority of the father would be considered a
    a. patriarchal family.
    b. companionship family.
    c. matriarchal family.
    d. traditional family.

    ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: 2.4 The Modern Family
    MSC: Analyzing

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27. A family consisting of two parents and their children, whose priorities are personal fulfillment and common affection, would be considered a
    a. modern family.
    b. companionship family.
    c. traditional family.
    d. patriarchal family.

    ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: 2.4 The Modern Family
    MSC: Analyzing

28. For what reason did companionate marriage appeal to many men in growing white-collar industries?
    a. benefits of dual incomes
    b. economic benefits of fewer children
    c. practical support of having a homemaker
    d. as a remedy for alienation in the workplace

    ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: 2.4 The Modern Family
    MSC: Analyzing

29. Social forces in the 1950s increased the motivation for young people to marry by
    a. providing government incentives.
    b. enforcing moral and religious pressure.
    c. broadening the role of extended family.
    d. offering fewer economic opportunities.

    ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: 2.4 The Modern Family
    MSC: Analyzing

30. The family in the second half of the twentieth century was heavily impacted by
    a. reduced opportunity for women.
    b. increased reliance on extended family for care.
    c. reduction in government assistance programs.
    d. reduction of the home as a place of work.

    ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: 2.4 New Family Diversity (1960s–Present)
    MSC: Analyzing

31. Between 1900 and 1965, the "industrial revolution" of household technologies such as dishwashers and microwave ovens impacted women's household labor in what way?
    a. Women spent far fewer hours on housework.
    b. Women spent even more hours on housework, but doing different things.
    c. Women spent about the same amount of time on housework.
    d. Housework began to be done by men.

    ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: 2.4 New Family Diversity (1960s–Present)
    MSC: Remembering

32. In the late twentieth century, cultural changes in the meaning of and motivation for marriage evolved in what way?
    a. Economic pressure to stay married increased.
    b. Emotional success became central to marriage success.
    c. Choosing to remain single was increasingly discouraged.
    d. Endogamy was strengthened.

    ANS: B DIF: Difficult REF: 2.4 New Family Diversity (1960s–Present)
    MSC: Understanding

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33. Increasing physical separation of families
    a. heightened the personal value of independence.
    b. reduced family diversity.
    c. undermined people's sense of freedom.
    d. clarified the involuntary nature of modern family relationships.

    ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: 2.4 New Family Diversity (1960s–Present)
    MSC: Analyzing

34. (White) women formally achieved the right to vote with the passage of the
    a. Nineteenth Amendment.
    b. Civil Rights Act.
    c. Voting Rights Act.
    d. Fifteenth Amendment.

    ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: 2.4 New Family Diversity (1960s–Present)
    MSC: Remembering

35. Which of the following is a characteristic of modern grandparenting, especially in poor families?
    a. Grandparents are less likely to have long-lasting emotional bonds with their grandchildren.
    b. Most grandparents would rather live with family members.
    c. Grandparents are more involved due to financial dependence on adult children.
    d. Grandparents are doing more direct caregiving of grandchildren.

    ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: 2.4 New Family Diversity (1960s–Present)
    MSC: Understanding

36. Many women find themselves caring for adolescent children as well as aging parents. Social scientists call this population
    a. caregivers.
    b. middle-aged.
    c. the middle generation.
    d. the sandwich generation.

    ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: 2.4 New Family Diversity (1960s–Present)
    MSC: Remembering

37. Middle-class and affluent families were the first to develop an emphasis on emotional bonds in family life because
    a. popular culture and the media promoted doing so.
    b. they had less need to consider the economic impact of mate selection.
    c. they tended to be less religious.
    d. they had more education.

    ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: 2.4 New Family Diversity (1960s–Present)
    MSC: Understanding

38. The increasing diversity of naming practices is indicative of
    a. ethnic diversity in the United States.
    b. cultural tradition.
    c. personal freedom.
    d. individualism.

    ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: 2.4 New Family Diversity (1960s–Present)
    MSC: Understanding

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39. The most prevalent form of marriage throughout human history has been
    a. monogamy.
    b. homogamy.
    c. polygamy.
    d. matriarchy.

    ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: 2.1 Early History
    MSC: Remembering

40. For white families in the nineteenth century, what was the reason for a dramatic decrease in the number of children born?
    a. Many diseases had not been cured yet by antibiotics.
    b. More women were working outside the home.
    c. Couples learned how to prevent pregnancy.
    d. Costs of living were prohibitive to large families.

    ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
    MSC: Remembering

41. The Comstock Act of 1873
    a. granted landholding rights only to American Indians who were legally and monogamously married.
    b. allowed for the prosecution and jailing of men who remarried after deserting their wives.
    c. allowed the government to stop support to Civil War soldiers' widows if they remarried.
    d. banned the shipment of "obscene" materials in the U.S. mail.

    ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family
    MSC: Remembering

42. Family wage is considered
    a. the annual income a family makes.
    b. the increase in available resources for those who are married over singlehood.
    c. the wage necessary for a family to survive with two adults working.
    d. the amount necessary for a male earner to provide subsistence for his wife and children.

    ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: 2.4 The Modern Family (1900–1960s)
    MSC: Remembering

43. Historian Elaine Tyler May stated that American families after World War II perceived an "intense need to feel liberated from the past and secure in the future." How did families achieve this feeling?
    a. by focusing on traditional gender roles
    b. by encouraging women to maintain jobs outside of the home
    c. by marrying later and delaying having children
    d. by turning inward toward family life by having several children

    ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: 2.4 The Modern Family (1900–1960s)
    MSC: Analyzing

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44. In the second half of the twentieth century, family diversity was promoted through institutional factors that
    a. encouraged aging people to move in with their married adult children.
    b. allowed people to structure their lives independently through welfare and pension programs.
    c. discouraged home ownership.
    d. contributed to the decline in women's employment.

    ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: 2.4 New Family Diversity (1960s–Present)
    MSC: Analyzing

45. Why would a social scientist claim that the role of grandparents in middle-class and affluent families differ from grandparents' roles in poor families?
    a. Middle-class and affluent families are more likely to bond over emotional relationships instead of caregiving based on need.
    b. Poor families emphasize the role of grandparents more than their middle-class/affluent counterparts because of strong emotional bonds.
    c. There is more likely to be an economic need for grandparents to provide caregiving in middle-class and affluent families.
    d. There is no difference in the roles of grandparents among poor, middle-class, and affluent families.

    ANS: A DIF: Hard REF: New Family Diversity (1960s–Present)
    MSC: Analyzing

46. Today, many young women are drawn to urban areas because
    a. housing costs are more reasonable there than in the suburbs.
    b. more family commitments make urban living easier.
    c. there are more job opportunities and social neighborhoods with like-minded peers.
    d. urban areas contain single-family homes relatively isolated from each other.

    ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: 2.5 Trend to Watch: Urban Transformations
    MSC: Understanding

47. Companionate marriage contributed to the breakdown of the courtship system because
    a. parental supervision became more important than individual preference when choosing a spouse.
    b. the growing sense of independence in young people could not easily be controlled.
    c. there were fewer opportunities in urban areas.
    d. young people were more concerned with social status and economic needs than equality based on companionship.

    ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: 2.4 The Modern Family (1900–1960s)
    MSC: Understanding

48. Ford Motor Company introduced the "Five Dollar Day" in 1914 as a way to
    a. increase labor unrest among employees.
    b. improve customer loyalty.
    c. promote stability and home ownership.
    d. provide political incentives to the government.

    ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: 2.4 The Modern Family (1900–1960s)
    MSC: Applying

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49. How did industrialism and separate spheres increase economic inequality between husband and wife?
    a. Waged workers were men, and labor in the home did not generate as much income.
    b. Women wielded more power within the workplace, which allowed them to be independent of their husbands.
    c. Women were more likely to have economic power over their husbands because women's work was critical to family survival.
    d. Women were more likely to have economic power over their homes than their husbands were.

    ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: 2.4 The Modern Family (1900–1960s)
    MSC: Analyzing

50. Which of the following supports the idea that the institution of marriage remains very important in U.S. society?
    a. the decline of polygamy in the U.S.
    b. the fight for access to marriage by gays and lesbians
    c. the cultural doctrine of separate spheres
    d. the increase in women's paid work

    ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: 2.4 The Modern Family (1900–1960s)
    MSC: Understanding

ESSAY

1. Identify two major social trends in the historical development of the American family from colonial to modern times, explaining why they are significant.

    ANS:
    Students may discuss decreased family size, changing motivations for mate selection, the impact of economic changes on family life, increased life expectancy, increased diversity, or changing gender roles. Smaller family size is associated with a national trend toward greater individualism; individuals are less likely over time to have extended family support and obligations. Mate selection moved from being economically motivated to being motivated by personal fulfillment, another reflection of a focus on individualism and personal satisfaction. The impact of changed gender roles has been pervasive. Household division of labor has been transformed, and women's participation in the workforce has given them social power they hadn't had. For example, with economic independence, women are free to leave unstable or unhappy marriages, surely one contributor to the gradually increased divorce rate.

    DIF: Moderate REF: 2.0 The Family in History MSC: Analyzing

2. Describe what is known about prehistoric families and explain the significance of these findings for our understanding of family in general.

    ANS:
    Burial practices among early humans tell us about endogamy and exogamy, family structure, the existence of early nuclear families, and the early practice of family support in survival. They teach us about the spacing between siblings and about family size. This tells sociologists more about the origins of the nuclear family, parenting practices, and the social acknowledgment of extended family relationships.

    DIF: Easy REF: 2.1 Early History MSC: Understanding

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3. Evaluate the role of religion, particularly the Christian church, on family norms and values in the nineteenth century.

   ANS:
   In early American history, churches held the role now held by government. They determined the validity of marriages, presided over ceremonies, and allocated power and money among family members. Ideas on marriage and divorce based on Christian doctrine were imposed on all citizens. The standard of monogamy, among other morals, was established into law through the power of religious ideology.

   DIF: Moderate REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family | The Emerging Modern Family
   MSC: Evaluating

4. Describe the impact of slavery on the family structure of African Americans throughout U.S. history.

   ANS:
   Students should address the lost customs and languages of diverse Africans brought as slaves. Social scientists are often unsure which of the resulting cultural features of African American family life are held over from African traditions and which are adaptations to slavery. Family lineage was difficult or impossible to trace. Separation of parents and children was common. After the Civil War, African American families were legally recognized, and some were reunited. Emerging African American families were more egalitarian in gender roles and had strong extended family and kinship networks.

   DIF: Easy REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family | The Emerging Modern Family
   MSC: Understanding

5. Analyze the impact of the Industrial Revolution on family structure, paying particular attention to family structure, social class, and gender roles.

   ANS:
   Industrialization brought about an increase in individualism and a pronounced separation of the private and public spheres. Families were no longer individual miniature economies. Students should reference the traditional family, noting that it was not economically feasible for poor, working-class, or minority families. Discussion of separate spheres and gendered division of labor will be important.

   DIF: Difficult REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family | The Emerging Modern Family
   MSC: Analyzing

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6. Identify three specific examples of government influence over family life and describe their long-term impact.

   ANS:
   Examples might include the following:
   - regulating marriage
   - allocating power and money within families
   - implementing mandatory "monogamous morality"
   - defining obscenity (to include not only pornography but also birth control)
   - institutions for widows and orphans
   - aid to families in modern times, such as Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Medicaid

   DIF: Moderate REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family | The Emerging Modern Family
   MSC: Understanding

7. Discuss the social construction of childhood, evaluating the experiences of children throughout U.S. history as a reflection of broader cultural values.

   ANS:
   Response should indicate an understanding of the meaning of the "social construction" of childhood, not merely describe the experiences of children throughout history. Response should explain the economic role of children during colonial times, the view of children as having original sin, and the changed view of childhood in later American history, wherein children are seen as innocent and deserving of a carefree period of life.

   DIF: Difficult REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family | The Emerging Modern Family
   MSC: Evaluating

8. Describe the causes and consequences of the increased physical separation of extended families after the Industrial Revolution.

   ANS:
   Families separated during and after the Industrial Revolution in the search for employment as farming ceased to be the primary means of survival. Separation from extended family increased family members' sense of individualism and underscored the voluntary nature of family relationships. Students may define extended family and stem family. Another consequence of this separation is the existence of vulnerable widows and orphans—Americans who began to receive assistance from government institutions that they had previously received from extended families.

   DIF: Moderate REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family | The Emerging Modern Family
   MSC: Understanding

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9. Evaluate the myths and realities of the idealized "traditional" nuclear family in U.S. history.

ANS:
The main ideas to be covered here are a discussion of the makeup of a "traditional" family (heterosexual, male breadwinner, female homemaker), the origins of this ideal (Industrial Revolution), and its actual prevalence (only briefly did the majority of families take this form, and never was it possible for poor, working-class, or minority families). The fact that traditional families are actually not that common is a result of economic forces and the increased social empowerment of women.

DIF: Moderate REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family | The Emerging Modern Family
MSC: Analyzing

10. Analyze the social forces and cultural values that led to changes in courtship practices between colonial and modern times.

ANS:
Students should identify the changing courtship practices throughout U.S. history (courtship to dating) and identify the social forces underlying that transition. Responses should address the move from parental involvement to autonomous decision making in mate selection. The movement of religion out of family life, in addition to the tendency toward more individualism and a view of marriage as a source of personal fulfillment (not simply an economic transaction), contributed to these changes.

DIF: Difficult REF: 2.2 Origins of the American Family | The Emerging Modern Family
MSC: Analyzing

11. Explain how minority groups in 1800s United States (African Americans, Asian immigrant communities, and annexed Mexicans) developed family arrangements and practices that were distinct from those of whites.

ANS:
For African American families, students should highlight how the ending of slavery made possible a family revival allowing formerly enslaved people to reunite with family members, the possibility of starting families and living together in the manner of their own choosing, and practicing more gender equality within the home than that of whites. For the Chinese who came to America during the gold-rush years (beginning in 1852), family life was separated. Students should mention the split-household family, as well as the racism that prevented Chinese men from marrying white women. Finally, after the U.S. won the Mexican-American War in 1848, Latinos also experienced long periods of separation from their families, which increased the bonds of extended family relationships.

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MSC: Analyzing

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12. What factors have led to marriage's change from a relationship of necessity to one that is optional?

ANS:
For marriage to be optional, it had to be possible to survive without being married. The rise of women's employment was an essential element for that transformation. Another was the incorporation of single mothers who had never married into major welfare programs, as opposed to only single mothers who had been widowed or abandoned by their husbands. The market (employment) and the state (welfare) made possible the transformation of marriage from a necessity to a voluntary arrangement. In the family arena, the development of the love-based marriage meant that people strived for independence so that could have choice in marriage.

DIF: Moderate REF: 2.4 New Family Diversity (1960s–Present)
MSC: Analyzing

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