**Chapter 1—Definitions of and Theories about Families**

**Multiple Choice Questions**

1. Which of the following is considered a family, based on Murdock’s (1949) definition?
	1. siblings sharing an apartment
	2. a single parent with two children
	3. a same—sex couple
	4. a married couple with children

Answer: D

Section: Early Definitions of Families

1. Which of the following describes the definition of a “census family”?
	1. It is the definition preferred by all family sociologists.
	2. It is a process-based approach to defining the family.
	3. It is more inclusive than the Murdock (1949) approach.
	4. It is less inclusive than the Murdock (1949) approach.

Answer: C

Section: The Census Family

1. Which of the following groups would be excluded from Statistics Canada’s (2017) definition of family?
	1. a same—sex common—law couple raising children
	2. a lone parent with one child
	3. a divorcee with shared custody of children
	4. a 26-year-old daughter visiting her mother

Answer: D

Section: The Census Family

1. Which of the following is an example of a non-family household?
	1. two sisters sharing an apartment
	2. grandmother and granddaughter living together
	3. divorced parents living in separate homes sharing custody of children
	4. three university students sharing a tiny two-bedroom apartment

Answer: D

Section: Households and Families

1. Which of the following statements is a definition of an “extended family”?
	1. A kinship system in which the inheritance of property is determined through both male and female lines.
	2. A nuclear family that maintains close ties with relatives.
	3. Family relationships outside of the immediate family..
	4. A group of families who have social obligations towards each other.

Answer: C

Section: Family Relationships

1. What is the term for families consisting of grandparents raising their grandchildren?
	1. extended families
	2. skip-generation families
	3. transnational families
	4. co-parenting families

Answer: B

Section: Adoption, Fostering, and Skip-Generation Families

1. What is the terms for two or more individuals who are not in a relationship with each other agreeing to raise a child together?
	1. skip-generation families
	2. living apart together
	3. co-parenting
	4. extended families

Answer: C

Section: New Reproductive Technologies

1. What is the term for families where one or more immediate family members live in another country and may be separated for extended periods of time?
	1. transnational families
	2. extended families
	3. skip-generation families
	4. living apart together

Answer: A

Section: Households and Families

1. What is the term for couples who are in a relationship but maintain separate residences, sometimes in different cities, provinces, or countries?
	1. helicopter couples
	2. transnational couples
	3. extended families
	4. living apart together couples

Answer: D

Section: Households and Families

1. What do family-process definitions focus on?
	1. Power dynamics within families.
	2. The relationships between members of a family.
	3. The structure and composition of families.
	4. Activities and labour that are accomplished within families.

Answer: D

Section: Social Reproduction and Family-Process Definitions

1. Which of the following is the definition of family used by the Vanier Institute of the Family?
	1. Families are ultimately defined by the shape they take rather than by what they do.
	2. Families are ultimately defined by what they achieve rather than by the shape they take.
	3. Families are ultimately defined by the role they play in society.
	4. Families are too diverse to be defined at all.

Answer: B

Section: Social Reproduction and Family-Process Definitions

1. Which of the following defines a “kinship group”?
	1. a group of people who share a relationship typically through blood or marriage and may have positions in a hierarchy of rights over property
	2. a group of people distinguished by positions in a hierarchy of rights over property only
	3. a group of people distinguished by a shared domestic dwelling
	4. a group of people distinguished by shared culture and tradition

Answer: A

 Section: Kinship and Matrilineal and Patrilineal Systems

1. Which of the following is a kinship system whereby an individual gains property rights as a consequence of being the child of their mother?
	1. patrilineal
	2. matrilineal
	3. patriarchal
	4. matriarchal

Answer: B

Section: Kinship and Matrilineal and Patrilineal Systems

1. Which of the following statements about family kinship systems is correct?
	1. A cohort is a group of people who share a relationship through blood relations and/or marriage.
	2. In a patrilineal system, relationships are counted through both male and female lines.
	3. Western European and North American societies are mildly matrilineal.
	4. Bilateral kinship systems count relationships through both male and female lines.

Answer: D

Section: Kinship and Matrilineal and Patrilineal Systems

1. Which term refers to the work of maintaining ties between relatives?
	1. affective labour
	2. social reproduction
	3. kin-keeping
	4. helicopter parenting

Answer: C

Section: Social Reproduction and Family-Process Definitions

1. Which term refers to the physical, mental, and emotional labour of caring for family members?
	1. social reproduction
	2. kin-keeping
	3. affective labour
	4. helicopter parenting

Answer: A

Section: Social Reproduction and Family-Process Definitions

1. Which of the following is a principle of the life course perspective?
	1. People’s life courses are shaped by the country they live in.
	2. People build their own lives through choices and actions.
	3. Human development is mostly concentrated in youth.
	4. Major events tend to effect people the same way regardless of when they occur in the life course.

Answer: B

Section: Five Principles

1. Which approach to understanding families examines the social dynamics of close relations and how they change over time?
	1. structural functionalism
	2. symbolic interactionism
	3. life course theory
	4. postmodern theory

Answer: C

Section: Life Course Theory

1. Which approach to understanding families directs us to view families in terms of how they benefit society?
	1. structural functionalism
	2. symbolic interactionism
	3. life course theory
	4. convergence theory

Answer: A

Section: How Structural Functionalists View Families

1. What is an advantage of studying families from the perspective of different members?
	1. It explores the ways in which family’s cope with external forces and new requirements.
	2. it can track changes in the family as individual members age.
	3. It reveals the differences in how family members interpret shared experiences.
	4. It views the family as existing within a broad social network.

Answer: C

Section: Subjectivity

1. According to Friedrich Engels, what was responsible for the rise of the nuclear family and monogamy?
	1. the advanced division of labour
	2. industrialization
	3. heteronormativity
	4. the emergence of private property

Answer: D

Section: Friedrich Engels

1. What happened to the family as industrialization continued in the nineteenth century?
	1. Families became more important than work.
	2. Families increasingly worked together in family-run businesses.
	3. Family and work became more intertwined.
	4. Family and work became more separate.

Answer: D

Section: Public versus Private Spheres

1. Which of the following does Feminist Sociology recognize?
	1. The recognition that families are in stable units.
	2. The belief that the family is a private institution.
	3. The belief that family must consist of a male breadwinner and female caregiver.
	4. The belief that families are power based.

Answer: D

Section: Gender Inequalities in Unpaid Labour and Caregiving

1. Which of the following theories maintains social change in the family unit has negative consequences for society?
	1. Symbolic Interaction
	2. Structural Functionalism
	3. Feminist theory
	4. Marxist theory

Answer: B

Section: A Critique of Structural Functionalism

1. Which of the following represents a postmodernist sociological perspective on the family?
	1. Families are in crisis.
	2. There are competing discourses that shape how we make sense of family relationships.
	3. Families are natural creations.
	4. Common-law relationships are healthier than marriage relationships.

Answer: B

Section: Postmodernism and Discourses about Parenting

1. What does the term “second shift” refer to?
	1. The trend of parents taking a second job due to rising costs of supporting a family.
	2. Unpaid labour women do in the home.
	3. The increasing emotional labour taken on by men.
	4. Couples who agree to an equal share of household work.

Answer: B

Section: Women’s Second Shift

1. Which perspective advocates for equality of opportunity for women?
	1. liberal feminism
	2. radical feminism
	3. Marxist feminism
	4. exclusive feminism

Answer: A

Section: Liberal, Radical, and Inclusive Feminism

1. Which of the following is a critique of Marxist theory?
	1. It places insufficient emphasis on class.
	2. It places insufficient emphasis on human agency.
	3. It places insufficient emphasis on capitalism.
	4. It places insufficient emphasis on inequality.

Answer: B

Section: A Critique of Conflict Theory/Marxist Theory

1. Which of the following statements about the life course perspective is accurate?

* 1. Life course perspective has been used in family studies for centuries.
	2. The life course perspective is commonly used to understand families and family change.
	3. The life course perspective is limited to the study of nuclear families.
	4. The life course perspective accounts for patriarchy in families.

Answer: B

Section: Five Principles

1. Which of the following is one of the five principles of the life course theory?
	1. Human development occurs throughout life.
	2. Individuals have little or no control over the course of their lives.
	3. The same events affect individuals and families in the same way.
	4. Individuals construct their lives through social interactions with family members.

Answer: A

Section: Five Principles

**Short Answer Questions**

1. Describe how Statistics Canada defines a Census Family.

Section: The Census Family

1. Distinguish process-based definitions of family with structural-based definitions of family.

Section: A Sociological Perspective on Families

1. Who have been primarily defined as kin-keepers in Canada and what effects does this have on family relationships?

Section: Social Reproduction and Family-Process Definitions

1. Describe what forms of lineage apply in Canadian families.

Section: Kinship and Matrilineal and Patrilineal Systems

1. Explain the importance of rituals and celebrations to family life, according to symbolic interactionism.

Section: Rituals and Celebrations

1. Explain the feminist critique of the heterosexual nuclear family.

Section: A Critique of the Heterosexual Nuclear Family

1. Explain any three principles of life course theory.

Section: Life Course Theory

1. Explain one of the functions of the family identified by Parsons and identify a critique of that function.

Section: Talcott Parsons

1. Explain how industrialization created a distinction between the private and public spheres.

Section: Public versus Private Spheres

1. What is the “second shift”?

Section: Women’s Second Shift

**Long Answer Questions**

1. Explain Marx’s theory of how industrialization transformed families, households, and the nature of work.

Section: Conflict Theory/Marxist Theory

1. Social change is very significant to both symbolic interactionists and post modernists. Elaborate on why this is the case for each from the perspective of that theory.

Section: Symbolic Interactionism; Postmodernist Theory

1. Explain any three functions of the family as identified by Parsons and explain the major critique of Parson’s theory for each function.

Section: Talcott Parsons