

WHAT IS A FAMILY? 246

two or more people who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption

IS THE FAMILY IN DECLINE? 256

functionalism: according to Popenoe, the family is declining because the family is not cohesive, can't perform familial functions, and has lost power

conflict theory: families are struggling to adapt to dual-career households

symbolic interactionism: according to Coontz, the role of the family is changing to fit the times

WHAT DO FUTURE FAMILIES LOOK LIKE? 259

more interracial marriages and same-sex couples who adopt children

get the topic: WHAT IS A FAMILY?

Marriage and Family 246
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Conflict Theory 257
Functionalism 257

Gay Marriage vs. Civil Unions vs. Nothing 259

Theory**SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM** 256

- expectations of roles help determine the success of the family
- the way couples respond to changes in their environment affect the structure of the family

CONFLICT THEORY 257

- Hochschild's *The Second Shift*; family is a system in which women are generally stuck doing the majority of the work
- husbands and wives argue over time, energy, and leisure
- both people work because of socioeconomic problems, which causes tension

FUNCTIONALISM 257

- family serves as a way to maintain order
- parents teach children how to behave and what is acceptable
- Popenoe: the family is no longer cohesive, functional, or powerful

Key Terms

family is two or more people who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption. 246

marriage is the union of two people that is typically recognized by law or cultural norms. 246

nuclear family is a household consisting of a husband, wife, and children. 247

extended family is a household consisting of a nuclear family plus an additional relative. 247

monogamy is the practice of being married to

one person at a time. 248

polygamy is the practice of having more than one spouse at a time. 248

polygyny is the practice of a man marrying two or more women. 248

polyandry is the practice of a woman marrying two or more men. 248

blended families are families composed of children and some combination of biological parents. 248

homogamy is marriage between people with similar backgrounds, such as religion, race, class, or age. 252

endogamy is the practice of marrying within your social group. 252

exogamy is the practice of marrying someone from a different social group. 252

marital effects are factors that make marriage work. 252

Sample Test Questions

These multiple-choice questions are similar to those found in the test bank that accompanies this textbook.

1. Which of the following is one of the four *Bs* of marriage?
 - a. Billing
 - b. Business
 - c. Boredom
 - d. Breakup
2. What is someone who marries within his or her social group practicing?
 - a. Homogamy
 - b. Endogamy
 - c. Polyandry
 - d. Exogamy
3. Women who work a “second shift”
 - a. come home to hours of housework.
 - b. must work two jobs to make ends meet.
 - c. go back and get new jobs when they marry.
 - d. equally divide responsibilities with their spouses.
4. The “appropriateness” of a spouse is dependent upon
 - a. marital effects in a marriage.
 - b. cultural norms and regulations.
 - c. gender ideologies and gender roles.
 - d. physical and mental characteristics.
5. Which of the following is *not* one of the listed reasons for the increased divorce rate in the United States?
 - a. Longer life spans
 - b. More mobile families
 - c. Easier paperwork
 - d. Lax marriage laws and tax breaks

ESSAY

1. Why do so many people consider the 1950s an ideal time for the American family?
2. What are some of the causes in the changing of the American family?
3. Why do some couples wait to have children?
4. What is the stimulus-value-role theory?
5. What are some of Coontz’s myths of marriage?

WHERE TO START YOUR RESEARCH PAPER

To find information about American family values, go to the U.S. Department of State’s Web site at <http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0101/ijse/ijse0101.htm#welcome>

To learn about marriage and family therapy, go to <http://www.aamft.org/>

To learn about states’ current stance on same-sex marriage, and to find a good definition of the Defense of Marriage Act, go to <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/cyf/samesex.htm>

To find more information about the divorce rates in the United States, go to <http://www.divorcerate.org/>

Remember to check www.thethinkspot.com for additional information, downloadable flashcards, and other helpful resources.