

Families in Canada (Grade 12) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. According to Leonard Pearlin, what do people continuously change due to?**
 - A. Predictable life stages**
 - B. Change and stress**
 - C. Education and job security**
 - D. Health and fitness**
- 2. In which theoretical framework does the perception of self and others significantly shape behavior?**
 - A. Functionalism**
 - B. Systems Theory**
 - C. Symbolic Interactionism**
 - D. Developmental Theory**
- 3. In the late twentieth and twenty-first centuries, how has the concept of adulthood changed?**
 - A. It has become more traditional and less competitive.**
 - B. It occurs in a compressed time frame.**
 - C. It is delayed due to family responsibilities.**
 - D. It is characterized by prolonged dependence on parents.**
- 4. Which aspect of marriage do functionalists emphasize?**
 - A. Personal satisfaction**
 - B. Social stability and organization**
 - C. Wealth accumulation**
 - D. Romantic love**
- 5. According to societal views, which of the following is a reason for divorce?**
 - A. Different educational backgrounds**
 - B. Infidelity**
 - C. Shared hobbies**
 - D. Similar family sizes**

- 6. During which life stage does an individual primarily deal with "identity vs role confusion"?**
- A. 5-12 years**
 - B. 12-18 years**
 - C. 18-40 years**
 - D. 40-65 years**
- 7. Which task involves forming new intimate relationships with peers outside the family?**
- A. Individuation**
 - B. Career commitment**
 - C. Building social networks**
 - D. Family planning**
- 8. What is Systems Theory focused on?**
- A. The uniqueness of individual family members**
 - B. How different parts work together and influence each other**
 - C. The financial stability of the family unit**
 - D. The legal aspects of family structures**
- 9. What does the study of anthropology primarily focus on?**
- A. The social structures of modern societies**
 - B. The lives and cultures of human beings**
 - C. The historical context of political systems**
 - D. The economic status of different communities**
- 10. How does Developmental Theory contribute to understanding families?**
- A. By focusing on the legalities of marriage**
 - B. By identifying social trends in family structure**
 - C. By describing growth and changes in behavior as individuals mature**
 - D. By simplifying family dynamics to economic status**

Answers

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1. B
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. B
7. A
8. B
9. B
10. C

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Explanations

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1. According to Leonard Pearlin, what do people continuously change due to?

- A. Predictable life stages**
- B. Change and stress**
- C. Education and job security**
- D. Health and fitness**

Leonard Pearlin's work, particularly his insights into stress and coping mechanisms, highlights that individuals constantly navigate through changes and stressors in their lives. This perspective emphasizes that life is not static; instead, it is characterized by ongoing challenges that can affect mental and emotional well-being. People experience various stressors, including family dynamics, economic pressures, and societal expectations, which compel them to adapt and change their behaviors, thoughts, and coping strategies continuously. The correct answer reflects the essence of Pearlin's theory, acknowledging that these constant changes and the stress associated with them significantly shape human experiences. Understanding this dynamic helps in recognizing the importance of resilience and the need for effective coping strategies in managing stressors throughout life.

2. In which theoretical framework does the perception of self and others significantly shape behavior?

- A. Functionalism**
- B. Systems Theory**
- C. Symbolic Interactionism**
- D. Developmental Theory**

The correct answer, Symbolic Interactionism, emphasizes the role of social interactions and meanings in shaping individual behavior. This theoretical framework posits that individuals construct and interpret their social realities through symbols, such as language and gestures, during their interactions with others. As individuals assign meaning to these symbols, they also develop their sense of self and perceptions of others, which directly influence their actions. For instance, the way a person understands their identity is shaped by how they are perceived by others and how they interpret those perceptions. This interplay is central to Symbolic Interactionism, as it captures the dynamic nature of human relationships and the continual process of socialization. In contrast, Functionalism focuses on the role of social institutions and structures in maintaining the stability of society, rather than the individual perceptions that shape behavior. Systems Theory examines the interrelationships within social systems but doesn't delve into the subjective interpretations of symbols. Developmental Theory investigates the stages of human growth and change over a lifespan, rather than the immediate social interactions that influence behavior. Thus, Symbolic Interactionism uniquely highlights the importance of perception in behavior formation.

3. In the late twentieth and twenty-first centuries, how has the concept of adulthood changed?

- A. It has become more traditional and less competitive.**
- B. It occurs in a compressed time frame.**
- C. It is delayed due to family responsibilities.**
- D. It is characterized by prolonged dependence on parents.**

The concept of adulthood has indeed shifted in contemporary society, particularly in the late twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The correct choice highlights that adulthood occurs in a compressed time frame, indicating that individuals are reaching traditional markers of adulthood—such as starting a career, marrying, or having children—more quickly than previous generations. This can be attributed to various social, economic, and cultural factors that influence how and when young people transition into adulthood. In today's context, rapid technological advancements, shifts in educational requirements, and changing job markets have all contributed to a swift arrival at these adult milestones. The idea of a compressed time frame suggests that young people today are navigating adulthood differently, with an emphasis on quick transitions rather than the gradual progression seen in the past. Contextually, options referring to traditionalism or delayed responsibilities do not accurately capture the essence of modern adulthood in comparison to historical perspectives, which often framed adulthood around clearly defined life stages that occur at a defined pace. In contrast, the prolonged dependence on parents, while a reality for some young adults, does not reflect the overall trend of quickly achieving adult status, which remains the focus in this context.

4. Which aspect of marriage do functionalists emphasize?

- A. Personal satisfaction**
- B. Social stability and organization**
- C. Wealth accumulation**
- D. Romantic love**

Functionalists emphasize social stability and organization as a central aspect of marriage. From this theoretical perspective, marriage is viewed as a key social institution that contributes to the orderly functioning of society. Functionalists argue that marriage fulfills several important roles, such as providing a stable environment for raising children, reinforcing social norms, and promoting social cohesion. Marriage is seen as essential in establishing family structures that support the upbringing of the next generation while also ensuring the continuity of societal values and beliefs. Additionally, by creating defined roles and responsibilities within the household, marriage helps to maintain social order, which is crucial for the overall health of the community. While personal satisfaction, wealth accumulation, and romantic love are important to many individuals within marriages, functionalism focuses more broadly on how marriage serves greater societal needs rather than individual desires. This perspective highlights the function of marriage in promoting stability and organization within society, cementing it as a foundational institution that supports both families and communities.

5. According to societal views, which of the following is a reason for divorce?

- A. Different educational backgrounds**
- B. Infidelity**
- C. Shared hobbies**
- D. Similar family sizes**

The reason identified in the answer, infidelity, is widely recognized as one of the primary causes of divorce in society. Infidelity typically refers to a breach of the marital contract where one partner engages in a romantic or sexual relationship outside of the marriage. This breach can lead to a significant breakdown of trust and emotional intimacy, which are essential components of a healthy partnership. When infidelity occurs, it often creates feelings of betrayal and hurt that can be difficult to overcome, leading many couples to choose separation or divorce. Societal views on infidelity tend to focus on the emotional and relational damage it inflicts, thus making it a prominent reason for the dissolution of marriages. In contrast, factors like different educational backgrounds, shared hobbies, and similar family sizes, while they may influence the dynamics within a marriage, are generally not viewed as direct causes for divorce. These elements can affect compatibility and satisfaction in a relationship, but they do not typically lead to the same level of emotional conflict or betrayal that infidelity does.

6. During which life stage does an individual primarily deal with "identity vs role confusion"?

- A. 5-12 years**
- B. 12-18 years**
- C. 18-40 years**
- D. 40-65 years**

The life stage during which an individual primarily deals with "identity vs. role confusion" is adolescence, typically ranging from approximately 12 to 18 years. This stage is characterized by significant exploration and questioning of personal identity, values, and beliefs, largely influenced by social interactions and experiences. During this time, teenagers navigate the transition from childhood to adulthood, often experimenting with different roles in an effort to form a coherent sense of self. The challenge of this stage is critical; success in developing a strong identity leads to a sense of direction and purpose, while failure may result in feelings of confusion regarding one's role in society, which can carry implications into adulthood. The focus on identity formation is crucial during these years, as it sets the foundation for further development and personal growth in later life stages.

7. Which task involves forming new intimate relationships with peers outside the family?

- A. Individuation**
- B. Career commitment**
- C. Building social networks**
- D. Family planning**

Individuation is the process of developing a sense of self that is distinct from one's family and is crucial during adolescence and early adulthood. This task includes forming new intimate relationships with peers, which helps individuals establish their identity and social roles outside the familial context. Through individuation, individuals begin to navigate the complexities of friendships and romantic relationships, enabling them to create social networks that are independent from their family structure. This aspect of personal development is fundamental in fostering emotional maturity and social competence. While career commitment refers to one's focus on professional goals and aspirations, building social networks could be seen as a broader concept that doesn't specifically highlight the intimate relationships aspect of individuation. Family planning, on the other hand, pertains to decisions regarding starting or expanding a family and does not involve the formation of peer relationships. Thus, individuation emerges as the appropriate choice because it directly addresses the development of new intimate relationships with peers.

8. What is Systems Theory focused on?

- A. The uniqueness of individual family members**
- B. How different parts work together and influence each other**
- C. The financial stability of the family unit**
- D. The legal aspects of family structures**

Systems Theory is focused on understanding how different parts of a family system interact and influence one another. This theoretical framework views the family as a complex, interconnected system where changes in one part can affect the entire system. It emphasizes the relationships and dynamics between family members rather than isolating individuals or specific elements. For instance, in a family system, the behavior of one member can impact others' behaviors, emotions, and interactions, leading to a holistic understanding of the family's functioning. This perspective is crucial in various fields such as psychology, social work, and family therapy, as it allows professionals to assess and address issues in the context of the overall familial environment rather than focusing solely on individual behaviors or concerns. The focus on individual family members, financial stability, or legal aspects represents a narrower view that does not capture the systemic interactions that Systems Theory emphasizes. Understanding the interconnectedness within a family allows for a more comprehensive approach to analyzing and supporting family dynamics.

9. What does the study of anthropology primarily focus on?

- A. The social structures of modern societies
- B. The lives and cultures of human beings**
- C. The historical context of political systems
- D. The economic status of different communities

The study of anthropology primarily focuses on the lives and cultures of human beings. This discipline is deeply concerned with understanding the diverse ways in which human societies develop, function, and express themselves. Anthropology encompasses various aspects including social norms, traditions, rituals, beliefs, and customs, which collectively contribute to a culture's identity. By examining both contemporary and historical cultures, anthropologists aim to provide insights into human behavior and social interactions. This holistic approach is what distinguishes anthropology from other social sciences, as it considers not only the social structures and institutions but also the cultural contexts that shape human experiences. The other options, while related to social science, do not encapsulate the broad scope of anthropology. For instance, the focus on social structures or historical political systems may be studied within sociology or political science, respectively, but anthropology integrates these aspects within the larger framework of cultural understanding. Similarly, while economic status can certainly impact culture, it is just one facet among many that anthropology seeks to explore.

10. How does Developmental Theory contribute to understanding families?

- A. By focusing on the legalities of marriage
- B. By identifying social trends in family structure
- C. By describing growth and changes in behavior as individuals mature**
- D. By simplifying family dynamics to economic status

Developmental Theory significantly contributes to understanding families by emphasizing growth and changes in behavior as individuals navigate different life stages. This theory posits that family dynamics are not static; instead, they evolve as members progress through various developmental phases, such as childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age. Each stage brings unique challenges, roles, and expectations that shape individual behavior and family interactions. By analyzing these developmental processes, one can gain insights into how families function and adapt over time. For instance, the transition to parenthood involves changes in responsibilities, relationships, and communication patterns, which can be better understood through a developmental lens. This focus on behavior and growth helps illuminate the complexities of family life and the influences of individual maturation on family systems, providing a deeper understanding of how families operate and adapt in response to life's changes.