

FHS 2400 Marriage and Family
Text: The Marriage and Family Experience, 10th edition,
Chapter 14, Coming Apart: Separation and Divorce

Study Questions

Multiple Choice

1. The surge in divorce rates which began in the mid-1960s (p 491)
 - a. did not level off until the 1970s.
 - b. did not level off until the 1980s.
 - c. did not level off until the 1990s.
 - d. has not leveled off.

2. According to the text, the higher the _____, the more likely a women is to divorce. (p 495)
 - a. family income
 - b. status level of occupation
 - c. attendance at religious services
 - d. woman's individual income.

3. Which of the following are considered factors effecting divorce? (p 495)
 - a. Because of today's services, families are more of a necessity.
 - b. Marriage and families are viewed as paths to individual happiness and fulfillment.
 - c. The higher a family's income, the greater their chance will be of divorcing.
 - d. All of the above are true.

4. Which of the following is true concerning the legal divorce? (p 500)
 - a. The finalized legal divorce makes it possible for divorced spouses to remarry.
 - b. The legal divorce allows couples to act independent of one another.
 - c. Many unresolved issues such as feelings of betrayal may be acted out during the legal divorce.
 - d. All of the above are true.

5. Division of property, alimony, and child support are aspects of (p 501-502)
 - a. the emotional divorce.
 - b. the economic divorce.
 - c. the legal divorce.
 - d. the co-parental divorce.

6. When the former spouse becomes irrelevant to one's self and emotional well-being, a person has accomplished the _____ divorce. (p 501)
 - a. community
 - b. psychic
 - c. emotional
 - d. economic

7. Uncoupling (p 501)
 - a. occurs in fairly predictable stages.
 - b. is an intentional turning away.
 - c. ends when the couple separates.
 - d. is malicious.

8. Expect for _____, divorce is the greatest stress-producing event in life. (p 503)
 - a. unemployment of main provider
 - b. death of a spouse
 - c. chronic illness or handicap of a spouse or child
 - d. death of a child

9. When a marriage breaks up, almost everyone experiences all of the following **except** (p 503)
 - a. suffers separation distress.
 - b. suffers distress which is real but does not last forever.
 - c. a lack of apprehension.
 - d. centers their attention on the missing partner.

10. Divorce affects the economic condition of mothers and fathers in the following ways: (p 505)
 - a. Most mothers will experience a dramatic upward turn in their economic condition after divorce.
 - b. Mothers, who spend most of the time at home and with their children, will find that the earning potential increases after a divorce.
 - c. Fathers who make 25-50% of the household income experience significant increases in their living standards after divorce.
 - d. None of the above are true.

11. No-fault divorce (p 500)
 - a. means that guilt or fault by one or both spouses does not have to be established.
 - b. means that guilt must be established by one or both spouses, but the divorce will be given regardless of the type of guilt.
 - c. means that divorce is granted easily and quickly because no one is at fault.
 - d. none of the above are true.

12. Which of the following is true about no-fault divorce? (p 500)
- It has not had a big affect on divorce rates.
 - It has decreased the time involved in the legal process.
 - It has altered the grounds for determining post divorce financial responsibility.
 - All of the above are true.
13. Place the following in the order for the worst adjusted children. A. single parent families. B. contented two-parent families. C. Conflict-ridden two parent families. (p 508)
- A,B,C
 - C,A,B
 - B,A,C
 - A,C,B
14. All of the following are developmental stages for children who experience their parent's divorce **except** (p 510)
- the initial stage.
 - the growth stage.
 - the transition stage.
 - the restabilization stage.
15. Why are mothers generally awarded custody of the children? (p 515)
- Mothers have generally taken on the role of custodial parent in the marriage and so fathers feel more ambivalent about taking care of their children.
 - Judges generally prefer to give custody to the mothers.
 - Children are at less risk for abuse if the mother is given custody.
 - Both a and b are true.
16. Which of the following is **not** true? (p 515)
- Sole custody is where the child lives with one parent and has complete responsibility for physically raising the child.
 - Joint physical custody means that the child lives with both parents, dividing time between the two households.
 - Split custody means that the children are divided between the two parents; the mother usually taking the girls and the father usually taking the boys.
 - Split custody is the very best type of custody for children.

17. Noncustodial fathers (p 517)
 - a. often suffer grievously from the disruption of their father roles.
 - b. often become entertainer fathers who play with their children only on weekends.
 - c. often choose to eventually have little contact with their children because of the emotional pain and the role confusion.
 - d. all of the above are true.

18. Mediation (p 517,519)
 - a. is a process to assist divorcing couples in resolving personal, legal, and parenting issues.
 - b. Is not required by any state to assist with legal issues.
 - c. is reported by divorcing parents to be helpful in decreasing behavioral problems with their children.
 - d. both a and c are correct.

True and False

19. Americans have one of the lowest marriage rates and one of the highest divorce rates in the industrialized world. (p 490)
 - a. True
 - b. False

20. Some scholars suggest that divorce does not represent a devaluation of marriage but an idealization of marriage. (p 491)
 - a. True
 - b. False

21. All 50 states have adopted no-fault divorce. (p 500)
 - a. True
 - b. false

22. The text says that uncoupling (process of separation) is perhaps the crucial event in a marital breakdown. (p 501)
 - a. True
 - b. False

23. A person goes through two distinct phases in establishing a new identity following marital separation: transition and recovery. (p 503)
 - a. True
 - b. False

24. Between 50-70% of divorces are settled out of court between spouses and their lawyers. (p 505)
 - a. True
 - b. False
25. Following divorce, women are primarily responsible for both childrearing and the economic support of children. (p 505)
 - a. True
 - b. False
26. Slightly over half of all divorces involve children. (p 508)
 - a. True
 - b. False
27. Part of the "Accepting the finality of divorce" developmental task for children is when they give up "fairy tale" wishes that their parents will reunite. (p 511)
 - a. True
 - b. False
28. Adolescent children are usually the most upset by their parents' divorce? (p 511)
 - a. True
 - b. False
29. Adolescents usually blame themselves for their parents' divorce. (p 512)
 - a. True
 - b. False
30. Divorced parents put more pressure on daughters than on sons to take sides in their disputes. (p 513)
 - a. True
 - b. False
31. Amato (2003) reports that only 25% of children with divorced parents achieve the same level of adult well-being as children of continuously married parents. (p 514)
 - a. True
 - b. False
32. Parental hostility may make joint custody the worst form of custody. (p 516)
 - a. True
 - b. False

33. A study of 18- to 22-year-olds whose parents were divorced found that almost two-thirds had poor relationships with their fathers which is about twice the rate of a comparable group from non-divorced families. (p 517)
 - a. True
 - b. False

34. Divorced fathers are more likely to consider their children sources of support in times of need. (p 517)
 - a. True
 - b. False

35. Research has found covenant marriages to be very effective in preventing divorce. (p 518)
 - a. True.
 - b. False.

36. A goal of mediation is to save the marriage if possible. (p 519)
 - a. True
 - b. False