

## **TECEP® Test Description for SOC-210-TE**

### **MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY**

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This exam assesses students' ability to take an in-depth look at the history of the family, mate selection, love, social class characteristics and marriage, marital crises, alternative marriage forms, and human sexuality. It also evaluates students' knowledge and understanding of the diversity expressed in modern marriage and family experiences. (3 credits)

- **Test format:**
    - 80 multiple choice questions (1 point each)
    - 2 short essays (10 points each)
  - **Passing score:** 65% (65/100 points). Your grade will be reported as CR (credit) or NC (no credit).
  - **Time limit:** 2 hours
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### **OUTCOMES ASSESSED ON THE TEST**

- Explain traditional and contemporary views of marriage and family and the cultural variations.
  - Compare the different theoretical approaches and perspectives that analyze marriage and the family.
  - Describe gender and the relationship of gender to intimacy, friendship, love, and sexuality.
  - Explain communication and its variations related to marriage and family.
  - Define the roles in marriage, the choices of singlehood, cohabitation, and traditional and contemporary parenting.
  - Identify the diverse forms of family configuration and the similarities and differences among them
  - Discuss violence in the family.
  - Describe divorce and the post-divorce process.
  - Explain the methodological approaches to studying the family.
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## TOPICS ON THE TEST AND THEIR APPROXIMATE DISTRIBUTION

The table below indicates the main topics covered by this exam and the approximate percentage of the exam devoted to each main topic. Under the main topic heading is a list of related—but more specific—topics. It is important to review these topics to determine how much prior knowledge you have and/or how much additional study is necessary.

Topic	Percentage
<b>A Sociological Introduction to Marriage and Family</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Forms of marriages and families</li><li>● Monogamy and polygamy</li><li>● Ideological perspectives on the state of families</li><li>● Research methods</li><li>● Expertise vs. experience</li><li>● Ethics in research</li><li>● Theoretical perspectives on families<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Feminist</li><li>○ Conflict</li><li>○ Ecological</li><li>○ Social exchange</li><li>○ Structural-functional</li><li>○ Interactionist</li><li>○ Family systems</li><li>○ Family development</li><li>○ Postmodern</li></ul></li><li>● Racial and ethnic groups in the U.S.</li><li>● Poverty and families</li><li>● Social class and families</li></ul>	30%
<b>Gender, Love, and Sexuality</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Gender role development</li><li>● Gender stereotypes and identity</li><li>● Gender socialization</li><li>● Attachment theory</li><li>● Types of love</li><li>● Styles of love</li><li>● The halo effect</li><li>● Sexual scripts (traditional and contemporary)</li><li>● Sexual behavior through the lifespan</li><li>● Formation of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender identities</li><li>● Popular culture and sexuality</li></ul>	20%
<b>Communication and Conflict</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Verbal and nonverbal communication</li><li>● Styles of communication</li><li>● Gender differences in communication</li><li>● Types of conflict</li><li>● Dependence</li></ul>	5%



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolving communication conflict in relationships</li> <li>• Consequences of conflict in relationships</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Marriage, Singlehood, Parenting, and Work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homogamy vs. heterogamy</li> <li>• Endogamy and exogamy</li> <li>• Marriage debate</li> <li>• Marriage squeeze</li> <li>• Mating gradient</li> <li>• Stimulus-value-role theory</li> <li>• Stages of marriage</li> <li>• Parenthood and marriage</li> <li>• Grandparenting</li> <li>• Widowhood</li> <li>• Singlehood and cohabitation</li> <li>• Caregiving</li> <li>• Child-free option</li> <li>• Pregnancy</li> <li>• Rates of fertility and infant mortality</li> <li>• Adoptive families</li> <li>• Child rearing styles</li> <li>• Culture of fatherhood</li> <li>• Family work vs. paid work</li> <li>• Shift couples</li> <li>• Peer marriages</li> <li>• Role strain and overload</li> <li>• Working mothers</li> <li>• Fathers at home</li> <li>• Sexual harassment at work</li> <li>• Legal issues and the right to marry</li> </ul>	25%
<p><b>Family Violence and Abuse, Divorce, and New Beginnings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theories and causes of family violence</li> <li>• Sibling violence</li> <li>• Elder abuse</li> <li>• Verbal, emotional, physical abuse</li> <li>• Rape</li> <li>• Neglect</li> <li>• The divorce process</li> <li>• Divorce and the effects on the individual family members</li> <li>• Post-divorce family forms</li> <li>• Strengths and weaknesses of the post-divorced family</li> </ul>	20%



## STUDY MATERIALS

Below is a list of recommended study materials to help prepare you for your exam. Most textbooks in this subject include the topics listed above and will prepare you for the test. If you choose another text, be sure to compare its table of contents against the topic list to make sure all topics are covered.

Title
Strong, B., Devault, C., Cohen, T. <i>The Marriage and Family Experience: Intimate Relationships in a Changing Society</i> (current edition). Belmont CA: Wadsworth/Cengage.
Cherlin, A. <i>Public and Private Families: An Introduction</i> (current edition). New York, NY: McGraw Hill.

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## SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The questions below are designed to help you study for your TECEP. Answering these questions does not guarantee a passing score on your exam.

Please note that the questions below **will not** appear on your exam.

### Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Rachel and Mike are unmarried, live together, and have no children. They are a
  - a. nuclear family
  - b. traditional family
  - c. cohabiting couple
  - d. progressive couple
  
2. Examining how the sense of self is maintained in the process of acquiring social roles is fundamental to
  - a. social exchange theory
  - b. family development theory
  - c. symbolic interaction theory
  - d. structural functionalism



3. Representative samples are important to family survey research because they are most likely to
  - a. confirm personal family experiences
  - b. allow researchers to control exposure to independent variables
  - c. include persons who will cooperate with the researcher in collecting data
  - d. produce the most generalizable findings
4. Maria and Sanjay have been married for several years. They relate to each other warmly, with interest, affection, and shared humor. Their behavior reflects
  - a. low-intensity negative affect
  - b. positive affect
  - c. high-intensity influence
  - d. acceptance influence
5. Avoiding or evading a fight is an example of
  - a. stonewalling
  - b. refusing-to-accept influence
  - c. sabotage
  - d. checking-it-out
6. For both men and women, remarriage rates
  - a. increase significantly with age
  - b. increase slightly with age
  - c. decline with age
  - d. stabilize with age
7. Social learning theorists believe that behavior
  - a. changes throughout the life cycle
  - b. is well-established by adolescence
  - c. remains relatively the same throughout adulthood
  - d. is biologically determined
8. Between 1970 and the early 2000s the percentage of children living in single-parent families
  - a. increased slightly
  - b. more than doubled
  - c. more than tripled
  - d. remained stable



9. A whirlwind relationship that begins the day a couple meets and quickly results in cohabitation or engagement followed by marriage is called
- romantic love
  - fatuous love
  - consummate love
  - infatuation
10. Americans tend to marry people of similar race, age, education, religious affiliation, and social class. This behavior reflects the practice of
- hypergamy
  - hypogamy
  - heterogamy
  - homogamy
11. Jada values her child's freedom of expression and relies on reasoning and explanations when parenting. What is her parenting style?
- Contemporary
  - Authoritarian
  - Permissive
  - Authoritative
12. Our society increasingly views poverty as the result of
- individual character flaws
  - lack of opportunity
  - low wages and poor education
  - discrimination
13. Which of the following are most likely to be involved in domestic violence?
- Older men
  - Adolescents of both sexes
  - Older women
  - Young adults of both sexes



**Short essay:**

Answer the question in the form of a clear, well-organized short essay. Your response should include details or examples as necessary and be approximately 2 to 3 paragraphs in length.

14. Explain how parenthood affects marital success. Use examples and details to support your answer.
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## ANSWERS TO SAMPLE QUESTIONS

### Multiple-Choice Questions

- |        |         |         |
|--------|---------|---------|
| 1. (c) | 6. (c)  | 11. (c) |
| 2. (c) | 7. (a)  | 12. (a) |
| 3. (d) | 8. (b)  | 13. (d) |
| 4. (b) | 9. (b)  |         |
| 5. (a) | 10. (d) |         |

### Short Essay Question

14. The short essays will be graded on the following basis:

Criteria	Points
Response demonstrates mastery of theories and concepts	5 points
Thesis is supported with appropriate examples/evidence/discussion	5 points

