

Theoretical Approaches — Structure-Functionalist, Alliance, and Cultural

■ Multiple Choice Questions

Q1. The Structure-Functionalist approach views the family primarily as:

1. A site of conflict and inequality
2. A unit for economic production
3. A system that maintains social stability
4. A space for individual expression

Q2. Who is most closely associated with the Structure-Functionalist theory of family?

1. Karl Marx
2. Emile Durkheim
3. Claude Lévi-Strauss
4. Michel Foucault

Q3. In alliance theory, marriage is seen as:

1. A romantic union
2. A biological necessity
3. A strategic exchange between groups
4. A religious obligation

Q4. Claude Lévi-Strauss emphasized the importance of which concept in alliance theory?

1. Patriarchy
2. Kinship
3. Social mobility
4. Gender roles

Q5. Which of the following best describes cultural approaches to family?

1. Focus on universal family structures
2. Emphasis on biological determinism
3. Recognition of diverse family practices across cultures

4. Rejection of symbolic meanings

Q6. The incest taboo, according to Lévi-Strauss, serves to:

1. Promote genetic diversity
2. Encourage exogamy and social alliances
3. Uphold religious norms
4. Prevent moral decay

Q7. Talcott Parsons argued that the nuclear family is best suited for:

1. Industrial societies
2. Agrarian societies
3. Tribal communities
4. Postmodern societies

Q8. Which of the following is NOT a criticism of the Structure-Functionalist approach?

1. It ignores power dynamics
2. It overemphasizes stability
3. It supports feminist perspectives
4. It lacks attention to diversity

Q9. In cultural anthropology, kinship systems are studied to understand:

1. Economic production
2. Political ideologies
3. Social organization and identity
4. Technological advancement

Q10. Which concept is central to alliance theory?

1. Role conflict
2. Exchange
3. Deviance
4. Stratification

Q11. Which of the following theorists is associated with the concept of “elementary structures of kinship”?

1. Bronisław Malinowski
2. Claude Lévi-Strauss
3. Margaret Mead
4. Alfred Radcliffe-Brown

Q12. The Structure-Functionalist approach tends to view deviance in the family as:

1. A form of resistance
2. A threat to social order
3. A natural evolution
4. A cultural adaptation

Q13. Cultural relativism in family studies implies:

1. All families should follow Western norms
2. Family structures are biologically determined
3. Family practices must be understood within their cultural context
4. There is one ideal family model

Q14. Which of the following is a key feature of the alliance theory?

1. Focus on emotional bonds
2. Emphasis on genetic inheritance
3. Strategic marital exchanges
4. Rejection of kinship

Q15. The Structure-Functionalist model often assumes that:

1. Families are inherently conflictual
2. Families evolve randomly
3. Families serve specific societal functions
4. Families are irrelevant to social order

Q16. Which of the following approaches is most likely to study rituals and symbols in family life?

1. Structure-Functionalist
2. Cultural
3. Alliance
4. Rational Choice

Q17. Which theory emphasizes the role of norms and values in maintaining family cohesion?

1. Conflict Theory
2. Structure-Functionalist Theory
3. Feminist Theory
4. Queer Theory

Q18. In alliance theory, the exchange of women in marriage is seen as:

1. A form of oppression
2. A symbolic transaction
3. A biological necessity
4. A religious command

Q19. Which of the following is a limitation of alliance theory?

1. It ignores symbolic meanings
2. It overlooks economic factors
3. It assumes universal kinship structures
4. It neglects gender dynamics

Q20. Which approach is most likely to explore how family meanings vary across cultures?

1. Structure-Functionalist
2. Alliance
3. Cultural
4. Evolutionary

Q21. The concept of “function” in Structure-Functionalism refers to:

1. The emotional satisfaction of family members
2. The role of family in maintaining societal equilibrium
3. The biological reproduction of offspring
4. The economic contribution of family

Q22. Which of the following is a core assumption of Structure-Functionalism?

1. Society is based on conflict
2. Institutions work independently
3. Society is a system of interrelated parts
4. Individuals act irrationally

Q23. Which theory would most likely analyze dowry as a form of alliance-building?

1. Structure-Functionalist
2. Alliance Theory
3. Cultural Theory
4. Feminist Theory

Q24. Which of the following is NOT typically studied in cultural approaches to family?

1. Rituals
2. Symbols
3. Exchange systems
4. Language

Q25. Which theory is most likely to be critiqued for reinforcing traditional gender roles?

1. Cultural Theory
2. Structure-Functionalist Theory
3. Alliance Theory
4. Queer Theory

Q26. Which of the following best describes the Structure-Functionalist view of marriage?

1. A personal choice
2. A religious obligation
3. A social institution that contributes to stability
4. A form of resistance

Q27. Which of the following theorists contributed to both kinship and alliance theory?

1. Emile Durkheim
2. Talcott Parsons
3. Claude Lévi-Strauss
4. Max Weber

Q28. Cultural approaches often use which method to study families?

1. Statistical modeling
2. Ethnography
3. Experimental design
4. Survey analysis

Q29. Which theory would most likely explore the symbolic meaning of marriage rituals?

1. Structure-Functionalist
2. Alliance
3. Cultural
4. Conflict

Q30. Which of the following is a key critique of Structure-Functionalism in family studies?

1. It is too focused on micro-level interactions
2. It ignores the role of institutions
3. It assumes consensus and stability
4. It emphasizes cultural diversity

✓ Answer Key

Q No.	Answer	Q No.	Answer	Q No.	Answer
1	C	11	B	21	B
2	B	12	B	22	C
3	C	13	C	23	B
4	B	14	C	24	C
5	C	15	C	25	B
6	B	16	B	26	C
7	A	17	B	27	C
8	C	18	B	28	B
9	C	19	D	29	C
10	B	20	C	30	C