CHAPTER 4

# Effects of Economic Changes and Inequalities on Families

**TRUE-FALSE**

1. Western countries currently have more control of their national economies than was the case in the twentieth century.

*Answer:* False *Page:* 95

2. Factors that combine to limit working-class American families’ ability to earn decent wages include plant closures and imports from abroad.

*Answer:* True *Page:* 95

3. Only about 10 percent of all new jobs created, including some low-paying ones, require at least 12 years of formal education.

*Answer:* False *Page:* 96

4. At the two-parent family level, the recent job losses incurred by males on the

labour market were accompanied by feminine gains.

*Answer:*  True *Page:* 96

5. Despite the increase in two-earner couples, families are not much better off

financially than they were in the 1960s.

*Answer:* True *Page:* 96

6. Overall, the new economy presents a more secure employment and financial environment for families than was the case in the 1950s and 1960s when goods were manufactured.

*Answer:* False *Page:* 97

7. Men and women who work primarily evening shifts report more relationship problems with their spouses than do those with only daytime employment.

*Answer:* False *Page:* 99 *Skill*: factual

8. The two-income family has led to a substantial increase in equality in the household division of labour.

*Answer:* False *Page:* 100

9. Children whose mothers are employed have more negative outcomes than children of stay-at-home mothers.

*Answer:*  False *Page:* 101

10. Purchasing products for the purpose of acquiring a certain status is referred to as

conspicuous consumption.

*Answer:* True *Page:* 105

11. Personal causes of poverty include unemployment and low-paid jobs.

*Answer:* False *Page:* 107

12. If poor people had the right attitude towards hard work and education, there would be next to no poverty.

*Answer:* False *Page:*  134

13. The following statement is an example of a sociohistorical source of poverty:

Centuries of cultural genocide of Aboriginals explains why this group has higher

rates of poverty than do other Canadians.

*Answer:* True *Page:* 108 .

14. In Sweden, the poverty rate of single mothers is nearly the same as that of married mothers.

*Answer:* True *Page:* 115

15. Children who experience poverty are no more likely to be poor as adults than

children who have never experienced poverty.

*Answer:* True *Page:* 116

**MULTIPLE CHOICE**

1. Globalization has important consequences for the family because

a. governments are less able to improve local employment markets.

b. its end result is to improve local economies.

c. it diminishes corporations’ profits.

d. it helps develop inner cities.

e. it creates employment opportunities.

*Answer:* a *Page:* 95

2. A postindustrial economy is characterized by

a. an increase in both manufacturing and service sector jobs.

b. information technology and an increase in service sector jobs.

c. information technology and an increase in manufacturing jobs.

d. early first marriage and large family size.

e. single-earner families.

*Answer:* b *Page:* 95 *Skill:* factual

3. The expansion of the service sector

a. is a synonym for globalization.

b. parallels the expansion in manufacturing jobs.

c. has led to more part-time jobs.

d. has resulted in higher wages.

e. has led to greater job security.

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 95 *Skill:* factual

4. What major impact have recent economic changes had on families?

a. More mothers are staying home.

b. There as been a noticeable increase in two-income families.

c. Women are taking on manufacturing type jobs.

d. Social capital for families has increased.

e. The time families spend together has increased.

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 97 *Skill:* factual

5. Increased educational requirements

a. results in fewer teen pregnancies.

b. increases the incidence of high school dropouts.

c. leads to early parenthood.

d. contributes to delayed couple formation.

e. contributes to decreasing levels of poverty.

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 97

6. Two reasons for why two wages in many two-parent families have become a necessity are:

a. a decline in economic instability, and a decline in consumption.

b. a rise in economic instability, and increased consumption.

c. a rise in economic instability, and a decline in consumption.

d. increased probability of future divorce, and higher fertility rates

e. higher fertility rates, and caring for elderly parents.

*Answer:* b *Page:* 98

7. Research indicates that women who delay childbirth by at least one year past the average age at first birth for their cohorts earn

a. substantially lower salaries.

b. more than their husband.

c. roughly the same salary.

d. substantially higher salaries.

e. less than their husband.

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 99 *Skill:* factual

8. Who does the housework when both spouses are employed full-time?

a. Husband and wife both share equally in the housework

b. The wife does more housework than her husband

c. The husband does more housework than his wife.

d. Neither do the housework because they can hire domestic help.

e. Children and retired parents participate do most of the housework.

*Answer:* b *Page:* 100 *Skill:* factual

9. Immediately following World War II

a. employed mothers were encouraged to leave their jobs and stay home.

b. more day care facilities were opened.

c. women’s wages increased substantially.

d. maternal employment began to have a noticeable negative effect on children.

e. more job opportunities were made available to women.

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 101 *Skill:* factual

10. When both parents work too many hours

a. there is a risk that children will be undersocialized.

b. unemployment rises.

c. they enjoy their work more than their home life.

d. young children become confused about who their primary caregivers are.

e. children are unaffected.

*Answer:* a *Page:* 102

11. The ‘time crunch’ refers to

a. the need for mothers to establish careers before having children.

b. the period when children are out of school but parents are not home from work.

c. trying to engage in too many activities in too few hours.

d. getting everyone off to school or work in the morning.

e. establishing quality time with children on days off.

*Answer:* c *Page:* 103

12. Those whose wages are too low to raise their family above the poverty line, as determined by the government, are referred to as

a. the near poor.

b. conspicuously poor

c. disadvantaged.

d. the working poor.

e. low income.

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 105 *Skill:* factual

13. A ‘Market Basket Measure’ is a formula which measures

a. conspicuous consumption.

b. the eating habits of children, based on the Canada Food Guide.

c. the distance suburban families live from grocery stores.

d. the transportation costs of acquiring food in rural areas.

e. how much a family needs to earn in a particular region in order to meet its basic

needs.

*Answer:* e *Page:* 106

14. Structural causes of poverty include

a. divorce.

b. single-parent families.

c. pay inequity by gender.

d. small family size.

e. bankruptcy.

*Answer:* c *Page:* 108

15. An example of pay inequity is:

a. minority group members earn as much as whites with similar jobs.

b. women earn less than men with comparable jobs.

c. older persons have difficulty finding jobs.

d. there is a growing gap between rich and poor families.

e. youth primarily work at minimum wage jobs.

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 108

\_\_\_\_\_ reasons explains why Canadian Aboriginals suffer from high unemployment rates, substandard housing conditions, alcoholism, and above average suicide rates.

16. A reduction in social benefits for families

a. increases the likelihood of poverty.

b. discourage single motherhood.

c. results in mothers having fewer children.

d. reduces unemployment levels.

e. encourages upward social mobility through employment.

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 108

17. In terms of poverty \_\_\_\_\_ explain why Canadian Aboriginals suffer from high unemployment rates, substandard housing conditions, alcoholism, and above average suicide rates.

a. sociohistorical factors

b. structural factors

c. individual shortcomings

d. pay inequities

e. short-term inequalities

*Answer:* a *Page:* 109

18. \_\_\_\_\_ is a direct source of poverty or near poverty for women and children.

a. Out-of-wedlock birth

b. Unemployment

c. Insufficient daycare

d. Lack of affordable rent

e. Divorce

*Answer:* e *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 109 *Skill:* factual

19. Within two years after a separation or divorce \_\_\_\_\_ percent of women had experienced a decrease in income.

a. 0 to 5

b. 15 to 20

c. 30 to 35

d. 40 to 45

e. 55 to 60

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 109 *Skill:* factual

20. Within two years after a separation or divorce \_\_\_\_\_ percent of men had

experienced a decrease in income.

a. 0 to 5

b. 15 to 20

c. 30 to 35

d. 40 to 45

e. 55 to 60

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 110

21. As we descend the socioeconomic ladder

a. divorce rates go down.

b. people have a larger social network.

c. children stay in school longer.

d. the number of births to unmarried women increases.

e. families become more dysfunctional.

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 110

22. According to American research, the marriage rate goes up for both men and

women with each additional \_\_\_\_\_ that men earn.

1. $1000
2. $2000
3. $3000
4. $4000
5. $5000

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 110 *Skill:* factual

23. Why do current older single mothers have lower rates of poverty than older single

mothers in the past?

a. Because single mothers today can depend on their older children for support.

b. Because today they receive more social assistance from the government.

c. Because older single mothers today end up marrying the father of the child.

d. Because older single mothers today are more likely to receive assistance from the child’s father.

e. Because more single mothers today have post-secondary education.

*Answer:* c *Page:* 111 *Skill:* factual

24. Single teen mothers

a. are more or less equally distributed across all social classes.

b. generally end up marrying the child’s father.

c. end up on welfare a majority of the time.

d. for the most part, tend to remain with their own mothers.

e. tend to have more than one child outside of marriage.

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 111 *Skill:* factual

25. A major reason for why recent immigrant families in Canada have more difficulties making ends meet than older immigrants and Canada-born persons is because

a. The majority of recent immigrants do not have the credentials required to participate in the current labour force.

b. Most of them are temporary visa workers and are thus susceptible to exploitation and the loss of their jobs.

c. Many of them refuse to find work once they arrive in Canada.

d. Language barriers.

e. Most of them suffered from poverty in their country of origin.

*Answer:* *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 112

26. Some of the consequences of poverty for mothers include

a. having to send their children to college.

b. raising children who are surrounded by appropriate role models.

c. having to move to better areas.

d. raising children in unsafe neighbourhoods and with delinquent peers.

e. raising children without the support of other family members.

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 114 *Skill:* factual

27. Poverty tends to

a. increase social networks.

b. reduce social capital.

c. increase educational opportunities.

d. increase social capital.

e. increase community involvement.

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 113

28. In some European countries like Sweden, single mothers

a. do not have a much higher poverty rate than married mothers.

b. receive far fewer welfare benefits than Canadian mothers.

c. are on average younger than their Canadian counterparts.

d. do not receive the same social benefits as married mothers.

e. have, on average, more children than Canadian single mothers.

*Answer:* a *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 115 *Skill:* factual

29. Fathers most negatively affected by poverty are those who

a. lack the education to get a well-paying job.

b. are separated or divorced with a low paying job or no job.

c. provide child support on an inadequate income.

d. have children out of wedlock but do not live with them.

e. are unemployed in a two-parent family.

*Answer:* e  *Page:* 115

30. Men who cannot contribute to child support

a. negotiate reduced payments.

b. spend more time with their children to compensate for lack of financial support.

c. distance themselves from their children.

d. assist their children and ex-spouse in other ways.

e. engage in criminal activities to get the money.

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 116

31. The effects of child poverty

a. depend on the mother’s age.

b. occur only in single-parent families.

c. depend on a combination of factors.

d. vary by social class.

e. depend on father involvement.

*Answer:* c *Page:* 116

32. Living in poverty places children at risk for many problems. However, this risk changes depending on

a. whether it is their mother or father who is unemployed.

b. the number of children in the family.

c. the size of their neighbourhoods.

d. the depth of poverty.

e. their educational environment.

*Answer:* d *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 116

33. In general, children who live in poverty for many years

a. are likelier to become delinquent that those for whom poverty begins at an older age.

b. are at a higher risk for school and behavioural problems.

c. are more likely to be motivated to complete college.

d. are at a lower risk for problems when they are younger.

e. will inevitably live in poverty as adults.

*Answer:* b  *Page:* 118 *Skill:* factual

34. Physically, poor children

a. grow up as healthy as others.

b. have more frequent accidents.

c. have fewer heart problems because they eat less.

d. are smaller in stature.

e. have more eating disorders.

*Answer:* b *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 118 *Skill:* factual

35. Structural sources of poverty

a. are impossible to alleviate.

b. make little difference to personal sources of poverty.

c. reinforce personal sources of poverty.

d. are easily alleviated through government programs.

e. only impact on those who are already experiencing poverty.

*Answer:* c *Difficulty:* easy *Page:* 119

**SHORT ANSWER**

1. How does the new economy affect family structure and family life?

*Answer:* There has been an increase in women’s employment and, consequently, the two-income family. Women take less time out of paid employment to bear and raise children. First births are taking place later for many women so that they can establish careers prior to having children.

*Page:* 97

2. Critique the following question: Is maternal employment detrimental to children?

*Answer:* Although maternal employment has been seen as potentially problematic for children, paternal employment has not been viewed as having an effect on children. This is a result of the gender stratification and social constructions of motherhood and fatherhood. Mothers are viewed as ‘naturally’ children’s primary caregivers even though research, as well as common sense, indicates that there are many women who do not make good mothers. The concern about the effects of maternal employment on children began after World War II in an effort to persuade women to return to the home when veterans returned from the war. The jobs women had done during the war were seen to belong to men at this time. Despite the interest in demonstrating that women were needed at home to raise children and therefore should not take employment that ‘belonged’ to men, research does not demonstrate that children are adversely affected by women’s employment provided the care they get outside the home is quality care.

*Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 101

3. How can parental employment actually deprive children of social capital?

*Answer:* When both parents work, children may be unsupervised which may provide

greater opportunities for delinquent behaviour, drug use, and early sexual

experimentation. A lack of parental availability and supervision are particularly

problematic during adolescence. Children may also fail to learn coping skills,

homework may not be done, or communication skills may not develop

appropriately. This is further complicated by materialist values and a

preoccupation with upward mobility. Parents pursuing careers often spend little

time with children even when at home, engaging in housework, consumption,

or taking children to activities but not actively participating in their children’s

lives.

*Page:* 102

4. Describe two social policies which contribute to the creation and/or maintenance of family poverty.

*Answer:* Pay inequity is gendered with women making far less than men for jobs which require comparable qualifications and job performance. If pay equity legislation was established which required men and women be paid for comparable employment, women’s wages would increase to the point where many families in which women were employed would no longer experience poverty. Welfare benefits have decreased and most families who rely on social assistance experience deep poverty. If welfare benefits were increased and maintained after parents found a low-paying job, poverty would decrease.

*Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 108

5. We have seen that, among the poor, it does not make much of a difference for a single woman if she has a child during adolescence or early adulthood. Then, why do we still find that single motherhood is a cause of poverty?

*Answer:* A single mother is the only earner in the family and she is more likely than a male worker to earn a low salary and, therefore, fall behind in necessary payments. Despite the low wages, there is also much expenditure in the form of childcare, transportation, and health care. Higher unemployment rates and low social assistance payments make it difficult for single mothers to escape poverty.

*Difficulty:*  challenging *Page:*  110

6. Summarize the consequences of poverty for children.

*Answer:*  Children who live in poverty are denied the opportunity to live in safe neighbourhoods, to realize their abilities, to get a good education, and, often, to be fed adequately. These circumstances can produce deficits in health and future employment opportunities. As adults they will, on average, earn less than children not raised in poverty. Poor children repeat grades, drop out of school, and grow up to be unemployed or have dead end jobs more often than children who never experienced poverty. Children who experience poverty have more accidents than other children because of often unsafe living conditions. They are less healthy and tend to witness more violence in the home than other children. Their levels of mental health problems are greater than other children and they have more behavioural problems. They often feel shame about their living conditions, cannot participate in extra curricular activities, which adds to their isolation from their peers.

*Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 116