**NAME: ONIWAIYE GRACE OLUWASEUN**

**COLLEGE: LAW**

**COURSE: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY (SOC 102)**

**MATRIC NO: 19/LAW01/218**

**LEVEL: 100**

**QUESTION 1: WHAT IS FAMILY?**

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the family is the basic unit in the society traditionally consisting of two parents rearing their children. It is also any of various social units differing from but regarded as equivalent to the traditional family. A family is also a group of people affiliated by a specific relationship.

According to Sociologists, the family is an intimate domestic group of people related to one another by bonds of blood, sexual mating or legal rites. Stephen (1999) defines the family as a social arrangement based on the marriage including recognition of heights and duties of parenthood, common residence for husband, wife and children are reciprocal economic obligations between husband and wife.

QUESTION 2: DISCUSS THE FUNCTIONS OF THE FAMILY

One of the functions of the family is that it acts as a primary socialization of children whereby the child first learns the basic values and norms of the culture they will grow up in. A child needs to be carefully nurtured, cherished and molded into responsible individuals with good values and strong ethics. Therefore, it is important that children are provided with the best childcare so that they grow up to be physically, mentally and emotionally strong individuals.

The family is also ideally a major source of practical and emotional support for its members. It provides them food, clothing, shelter, and other basic essentials, and it also provides them with love, comfort, and help in times of emotional distress, and other types of intangible support needed.

The family helps regulate sexual activity and sexual reproduction. All societies have norms governing with whom and how often a person should have sex. The family is the major unit for teaching these norms and the major unit through which sexual reproduction occurs. One reason for this to ensure that infants have adequate emotional and practical care when they are born.

The family provides its members with a social identity. Children are born into their parents’ social class, race, ethnicity, religion etc. Some children have advantages throughout life because of the social identity they acquire from their parents, while others face many obstacles because the social class or race and ethnicity into which they are born is at the bottom of the social hierarchy.

QUESTION 3: **DISCUSS THE AFRICAN TRADITIONAL FAMILY**

**Family and kinship**

Aboriginal kinship and family structures are still cohesive forces which bind Aboriginal people together in all parts of Australia. Traditionally the Aboriginal family was a collaboration of clans composed of mothers, fathers, uncles, aunties, sisters, brothers, cousins and so on. In today’s terms it is known as an extended family. For Aboriginal people their family provides psychological and emotional support which is important to their wellbeing.

Aboriginal family obligations, often are seen as nepotism by other Australians, and are not strictly nuclear families. The structure of Aboriginal families reflects cultural values and involving kinship responsibilities.

For Aboriginal people kinship and family are especially import. Aboriginal people have family and kinship responsibilities that are not typical of non-Aboriginal families.  
  
Aboriginal people get things done through working through their family and kinship structures.

**Effects**

The effects of this are:

Aboriginal clients

* May feel obligated to share material/resources support with family members
* May not feel comfortable to speak out or go first in group meetings if they are the only Aboriginal person at a meeting or Elders are present.
* Expectation that Aboriginal Workers are accessible after hours

Aboriginal workers

* May feel obligated to work with clients out of hours if they are part of their community or kinship group
* May feel obligated to share their resources with family members
* May see clients in a holistic way (without many of the functional boundaries that European/Western culture has).

Aboriginal management committees;

* May not see a conflict of interest if members of a kinship group are on the Management Committee and are also clients of the service.

**QUESTION 4: Discuss your nuclear family**

The family refers to a group of people who are related by blood and also share things together such as a home. My nuclear family consists of my father, mother and three children myself inclusive. We all have various roles in the family but in as much as that my father and my mother both work together to provide the essentials and the necessities my mother has the performing role of taking care of the children but the children basically do all the house chores.

However, there are essential functions of the family that every family must abide with or by, including my nuclear family. My parents nurtured the children from birth, there is a saying “don’t make children if you can’t take care of them”, provide their daily needs and to provide a roof over our heads for protection.

**QUESTION 5: DRAW YOUR FAMILY TREE**