

--Question Starting--

1. Consider the following statements concerning George Ritzer's concept of the McDonaldization of food systems:

I. The predictability offered by McDonaldized systems necessarily enhances the quality and nutritional value of food.

II. Irreversibility is a core feature of McDonaldization, meaning once such systems are established, de-McDonaldization cannot occur.

III. McDonaldization leads to increased efficiency through the quantification and calculation of every aspect of food service.

Which of the following is correct?

- (1) I and II only
- (2) I and III only
- (3) II and III only
- (4) All of the above

Answer Key: 3

Solution:

? Statement II(Incorrect): McDonaldization does suggest a trend towards homogeneity and predictability, but Ritzer also discusses ways in which consumers seek 'something different,' potentially leading to de-McDonaldization or counter movements.

? Statement III(Correct): One of the fundamental principles of McDonaldization is efficiency. This is achieved by streamlining processes, emphasizing quantification, and minimizing personal interactions, which speed up service and reduce costs.

? Statement I(Incorrect): While McDonaldization does ensure predictability in service and product, it does not inherently enhance the quality or nutritional value of food. The focus is on uniformity and predictability, not necessarily on improving quality.

Hence, Option (3) is the right answer.

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2. Examine the following statements about assisted reproductive technologies, surrogacy, and reconfigured kinship:

I. Surrogacy arrangements can challenge traditional notions of kinship by introducing multiple potential parents (biological, gestational, and social).

II. Legal systems universally recognize the rights of all parties involved in surrogacy contracts, ensuring no disputes post-birth.

III. Assisted reproductive technologies (ART) redefine familial bonds by allowing non-traditional contributors to partake in the process of child-rearing.

Which of the following is correct?

- (1) I and II only
- (2) I and III only
- (3) II and III only
- (4) All of the above

Answer Key: 2

Solution:

? Statement I(Correct): Surrogacy indeed complicates traditional kinship roles by involving multiple parents (the donor, the surrogate, and the intended parents), each with potentially different legal, biological, and emotional claims.

? Statement III(Correct): ART, such as IVF, surrogacy, and sperm/egg donation, expand the concept of kinship beyond the conventional biological and nuclear family models, incorporating a variety of roles and relationships.

? Statement II(Incorrect): Legal recognition of surrogacy agreements varies widely across different jurisdictions, often leading to complex legal disputes about parentage and custody rights.

Hence, Option (2) is the right answer.

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3. Analyze the following statements concerning digital intimacy, smartphones, and family cohesion:

- I. Smartphone use invariably leads to diminished face-to-face interactions among family members, weakening familial bonds.
- II. Digital intimacy can foster deeper relationships through consistent connectivity and sharing of experiences despite physical distances.
- III. The use of smartphones enhances family cohesion by enabling more frequent communication and coordination of family activities.

Which of the following is correct?

- (1) I and II only
- (2) I and III only
- (3) II and III only
- (4) All of the above

Answer Key: 4

Solution:

? Statement I(Incorrect): While excessive smartphone use can potentially reduce face-to-face interaction, it does not invariably weaken familial bonds; it could also augment communication when used judiciously.

? Statement II(Correct): Digital intimacy, facilitated by smartphones and other communication technologies, allows family members to maintain emotional closeness and share moments in real-time, thereby enhancing relationships despite geographical separation.

? Statement III(Correct): Smartphones contribute to family cohesion by making it easier to coordinate schedules, share updates, and stay connected, which supports the logistics and emotional life of a family.

Hence, Option (4) is the right answer.