Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. The Census definition counts only people related by birth, marriage, or adoption who live together, and Miss Ruth is none of those. The functional definition asks who is committed over time, shares resources, and takes responsibility. Miss Ruth has done all three for nine years, so she counts.

2. Structure is only a label describing who lives in the home. The reading says outcomes track money, stability, and family process, meaning warmth, routines, and low conflict. Mariela's arrangement has been stable for years and has caring adults, which matters far more than the category name.

Multiple Choice

1. D

2. B

3. A

Matching

1-E, 2-D, 3-A, 4-C, 5-B

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) household, 2) blended, 3) socialization

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Most families pass through several structures over time as people marry, separate, move in or out, are born, or die. A label like blended or single-parent describes the arrangement this year, not a permanent trait of the people in it.

Q2: Systems theory treats the family as interconnected, so a change in one person ripples to everyone. Instead of hunting for one person to blame, you look for the pattern and notice how each member's role helps hold that pattern in place.

Q3: The legal definition determines real things like insurance, custody, and taxes, so it cannot be ignored. The functional definition captures the people who actually provide care and resources. Using only one leaves out either the paperwork or the people.