

Test Bank

Chapter 2: The Process and Problems of Social Research

Multiple Choice

1. An integrated social science review of the literature should accomplish three goals. These three goals are summarizing prior research, critiquing prior research, and _____.

- a. presenting pertinent conclusions
- b. replicating the findings of the study
- c. transcribing the findings into one's own words
- d. authoring new research on the subject

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2.3: Demonstrate how to search and review the research literature.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Integrated Literature Reviews

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Causal validity is also known as _____.

- a. revolving causation
- b. internal validity
- c. generalizability
- d. measurement validity

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2.7: Define the standards of measurement validity, generalizability, causal validity, and authenticity.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Causal Validity

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. When unexpected patterns in the research lead to new insights or approaches, sociologists call them _____.

- a. anomalous findings
- b. a research circle
- c. serendipitous findings
- d. an empirical generalization

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 2.5: Describe three key social research strategies and when they are best used.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Young Adolescents' Coping During Adult IPV

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. Scientists utilize inductive and _____ reasoning when conducting research.

- a. variable
- b. intuitive
- c. individualistic
- d. deductive

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 2.3: Demonstrate how to search and review the research literature.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Explanatory Research

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. Inductive research begins with specific data, which are then used to develop a _____ to account for data.

- a. theory
- b. variable
- c. finding
- d. generalization

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2.5: Describe three key social research strategies and when they are best used.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Exploratory Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. A social research question is a question about the social world that one seeks to answer through the collection and analysis of _____.

- a. real-life observation
- b. empirical, verifiable data
- c. a set of hypotheses
- d. official records

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2.1: Name the three characteristics of a good research question.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Social Research Questions

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. A social theory is a logically interrelated set of propositions that help us make sense of inter-related _____.

- a. phenomena
- b. questions
- c. personal thoughts
- d. members of communities

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2.2: Discuss the role of theory in social research.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Social Theories

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. Cross-population generalizability occurs to the extent that the results of a study hold true for _____.

- a. multiple populations
- b. another individual
- c. a single given community
- d. one sample

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2.7: Define the standards of measurement validity, generalizability, causal validity, and authenticity.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Generalizability

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. A measurement is valid when it _____.

- a. provides an unanticipated outcome
- b. contradicts other measures
- c. reveals new information
- d. measures what we think it will measure

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 2.7: Define the standards of measurement validity, generalizability, causal validity, and authenticity.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Measurement Validity

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. When researchers hypothesize that one variable increases as the other increases, the direction of association is _____.

- a. negative
- b. positive

- c. absolute
- d. predictable

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2.5: Describe three key social research strategies and when they are best used.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Explanatory Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

11. Repetitions of a study using the same research methods to answer the same research question are referred to as _____.

- a. reversals
- b. serendipitous studies
- c. exploratory research
- d. replications

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 2.3: Demonstrate how to search and review the research literature.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Domestic Violence and the Research Circle

Difficulty Level: Easy

12. Evaluating social theory is one of the most important objectives of _____.

- a. social science
- b. the human experience
- c. philosophy
- d. society

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2.2: Discuss the role of theory in social research.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Social Theories

Difficulty Level: Easy

13. Scholarly research must be _____.

- a. published in a print journal
- b. deductive
- c. peer-reviewed
- d. inductive

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 2.4: Develop a strategy for searching the web.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Searching the Literature

Difficulty Level: Medium

14. If a pattern in data is out of the ordinary, it may be considered _____.

- a. unanimous
- b. experimental
- c. anomalous
- d. obtained

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 2.7: Define the standards of measurement validity, generalizability, causal validity, and authenticity.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Young Adolescents' Coping during Adult IPV

Difficulty Level: Easy

15. Replications of a study may allow us to establish _____.

- a. social research standards
- b. generalizability

- c. research circles
- d. anomalous findings

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2.7: Define the standards of measurement validity, generalizability, causal validity, and authenticity.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Domestic Violence and the Research Circle

Difficulty Level: Medium

17. Research questions may change or expand during _____.

- a. data collection and analysis
- b. the development of a conclusion
- c. the peer-review process
- d. the formation of a hypothesis

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2.1: Name the three characteristics of a good research question.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Social Research Questions

Difficulty Level: Hard

18. Explanatory and evaluative studies are types of _____.

- a. symbolic interactionism
- b. cross-population research
- c. generalizable studies
- d. deductive research

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 2.5: Describe three key social research strategies and when they are best used.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Explanatory Research

Difficulty level: Medium

19. Validity is the state that exists when statements or conclusions about empirical reality are _____.

- a. incorrect
- b. correct
- c. unknown
- d. empirically reviewed

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2.7: Define the standards of measurement validity, generalizability, causal validity, and authenticity.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Social Research Standards

Difficulty Level: Easy

20. Sample generalizability is a key concern in _____.

- a. survey research
- b. quantitative research methods
- c. developing a hypothesis
- d. establishing a scientific paradigm

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2.7: Define the standards of measurement validity, generalizability, causal validity, and authenticity.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Generalizability

Difficulty Level: Easy

21. Causal validity asserts that A _____.

- a. and B are unrelated

- b. causes B
- c. may sometimes cause B
- d. and B are the same

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2.7: Define the standards of measurement validity, generalizability, causal validity, and authenticity.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Causal Validity

Difficulty Level: Easy

22. Generalizability may refer to a sample, as well as a _____.

- a. cross-population
- b. anomalous finding
- c. inductive strategy
- d. rational choice

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2.7: Define the standards of measurement validity, generalizability, causal validity, and authenticity.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Generalizability

Difficulty Level: Medium

23. Peer-reviews are almost always _____.

- a. conducted with others
- b. anonymous
- c. in-person
- d. ignored

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2.3: Demonstrate how to search and review the research literature.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Searching the Literature

Difficulty Level: Easy

24. Online bibliographic databases such as SocINDEX are most likely to contain _____.

- a. peer-reviewed articles
- b. newspaper articles
- c. opinion pieces
- d. informative videos

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2.4: Develop a strategy for searching the web.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Searching the Literature

Difficulty Level: Easy

25. When searching the web for research materials, putting quotation marks around a phrase will do which of the following?

- a. produce only peer reviewed search results
- b. enable Google scholar
- c. limit your search
- d. search video content

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 2.4: Develop a strategy for searching the web.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Searching the Web

Difficulty Level: Medium

26. The web provides a medium for anyone with basic skills to post just about anything. Thus, when searching the web for your research _____.

- a. it is important to verify your sources
- b. remember the majority of information can be trusted
- c. you will rarely find scholarly materials
- d. there are few ways to narrow your search results

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2.4: Develop a strategy for searching the web.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Searching the Web

Difficulty Level: Easy

27. When searching the World Wide Web for research materials it is common to find that _____.

- a. progress tends to be slow due to limited information
- b. it is difficult to avoid information in which you have no interest or necessity
- c. online scholarly information and resources are typically not peer reviewed
- d. there are few academic databases or search tools

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2.4: Develop a strategy for searching the web.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Searching the Web

Difficulty Level: Medium

28. When summarizing prior research during the literature review process, you should do which of the following?

- a. focus on the particular research question you will address
- b. focus on research questions that are unrelated to yours
- c. work to discover a new research question
- d. begin forming your conclusion

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2.3: Demonstrate how to search and review the research literature.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Integrated Literature Reviews

Difficulty Level: Medium

29. A researcher may go through a peer-review process. This means the researcher _____.

- a. must conduct a new study
- b. should make changes and submit their work again
- c. is prevented from resubmitting their work
- d. is asked to submit their work elsewhere

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2.3: Demonstrate how to search and review the research literature.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Searching the Literature

Difficulty Level: Medium

30. It is important for a research question to be _____.

- a. broad
- b. specific
- c. valid
- d. procedural

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2.1: Name the three characteristics of a good research question.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Social Research Questions

Difficulty Level: Medium

31. Independent and dependent variables should be _____.

- a. easily identifiable

- b. revealed in your conclusion
- c. open to interpretation
- d. peer-reviewed

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2.6: Name and illustrate the three different longitudinal studies.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Explanatory Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

32. When we conduct social research, we are attempting to connect theory with _____.

- a. empirical data
- b. dependent variables
- c. explanatory research
- d. the research circle

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2.2: Discuss the role of theory in social research.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Social Theories

Difficulty Level: Hard

33. The research circle concludes with _____.

- a. data collection
- b. data analysis
- c. the peer-review process
- d. external validity

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2.5: Describe three key social research strategies and when they are best used.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Explanatory Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

34. In longitudinal research, data are collected _____.

- a. in the political arena
- b. at two or more points in time
- c. exclusively from existing sources
- d. through the use of web-based sources

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2.6: Name and illustrate the three different longitudinal studies.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Longitudinal Designs

Difficulty Level: Medium

35. Repeated cross-sectional designs are also known as _____.

- a. trend studies
- b. retro-analysis
- c. fixed panel designs
- d. event-based designs

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2.6: Name and illustrate the three different longitudinal studies.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Repeated Cross-Sectional Designs (Trend Studies)

Difficulty Level: Medium

36. People who have experienced the same event are known as a _____.

- a. research circle
- b. cohort
- c. dependent variable

d. fixed sample

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2.6: Name and illustrate the three different longitudinal studies.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Event-Based Designs (Cohort Studies)

Difficulty Level: Easy

37. Longitudinal research measures _____ and _____ at different times to determine whether variation has occurred.

a. validity; generalizability

b. cohorts; cross sections

c. independent variables; dependent variables

c. opinions; observations

Answer: C

Learning Objective: 2.6: Name and illustrate the three different longitudinal studies.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Longitudinal Designs

Difficulty Level: Medium

38. The three main types of longitudinal research include repeated cross-sectional design, fixed sample panel design, and _____.

a. cohort design

b. latitudinal design

c. subject fatigue

d. event-based design

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 2.6: Name and illustrate the three different longitudinal studies.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Longitudinal Designs

Difficulty Level: Medium

39. Which of the following is necessary for a study's finding to be considered authentic?

- a. The various perspectives of participants must be fairly represented.
- b. The findings must align in support of the original hypothesis.
- c. The study cohort must include representatives from all social groups.
- d. The researchers must not disclose their methodologies.

Answer: A

Learning Objective: 2.7: Define the standards of measurement validity, generalizability, causal validity, and authenticity.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Generalizability

Difficulty Level: Hard

40. Social research questions should be feasible, socially important, and _____.

- a. possible to examine in a short period of time
- b. scientifically relevant
- c. qualitative
- d. reflective of a researcher personal experiences

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2.1: Name the three characteristics of a good research question.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Social Research Question

Difficulty Level: Medium

True/False

1. The goal of authenticity is stressed by researchers who exhibit focus and attention on their own individual thoughts and assumptions.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 2.7: Define the standards of measurement validity, generalizability, causal validity, and authenticity.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Authenticity

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Specific deterrence theory predicts that arresting spouse abusers will lessen their likelihood of reoffending by increasing the costs of reoffending.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2.2: Discuss the role of theory in social research.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Social Theories

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Cross-population generalizability may also be referred to as external validity.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2.7: Define the standards of measurement validity, generalizability, causal validity, and authenticity.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Generalizability

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Reviewing peer-reviewed articles that report prior research is an essential step in designing new research.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2.3: Demonstrate how to search and review the research literature.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Reviewing Research

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. Social research questions are often refined as researchers make connections between theory and data.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2.1: Name the three characteristics of a good research question.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Social Research Strategies

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. Newspapers and magazine articles are examples of empirical sources.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 2.3: Demonstrate how to search and review the research literature.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Reviewing Research

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. A hypothesis involves a relationship of two or more variables.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2.1: Name the three characteristics of a good research question.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Explanatory Research

Difficulty Level: Easy

8. Reviewing peer-reviewed journal articles that report prior research is an essential step in designing new research.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2.3: Demonstrate how to search and review the research literature.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Highlights

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Anomalous findings are unexpected patterns in data.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2.5: Describe three key social research strategies and when they are best used.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Explanatory Research

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. Researchers utilizing the web should adopt a “buyers beware” approach.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2.4: Develop a strategy for searching the web.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Searching the Web

Difficulty Level: Easy

Short Answer

1. Briefly explain what a social research question is and the role it plays in the research process. In other words, what are the fundamental characteristics of a social research question and how do researchers utilize their questions to guide research?

Ans: Answers may vary. Students should mention that social research questions seek to find answers through the collection and analysis of firsthand, verifiable, empirical data. Not a question about who, but a question about people in groups, social processes, or tendencies in communities. There are three stages to write a research question: identifying one or more questions for study, refining the questions, and evaluating the questions. Students should explore how the research question is a tool to guide the research process and explain how researchers should revise and revisit research questions as they move through the research process.

Learning Objective: 2.1: Name the three characteristics of a good research question.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Social Research Questions

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. What is validity and why is it important?

Ans: Answers may vary. Student should discuss how the goal of validity is met when our conclusions about this empirical reality are correct. Validity is important as it helps us understand why the social world operates as it does. This is accomplished through the three forms of validity discussed in the chapter; Measurement validity, generalizability, and causal validity.

Learning Objective: 2.7: Define the standards of measurement validity, generalizability, causal validity, and authenticity.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Social Research Standards

Difficulty Level: Hard

3. What is the goal a literature review? What special concerns should a researcher consider when searching the literature using the web?

Ans: Answers may vary. Students should mention that the primary goal in searching the literature is to find relevant reports of prior research investigations; focus on reports in scholarly journals; specify research question; identify bibliographic databases; create list of search terms; narrow search; check the results; and locate the articles. Students should also discuss concerns associated with using the internet for research such as double-checking sources of information, avoiding unwanted materials, and filter content/narrowing search parameters. Students should also mention the importance of using scholarly sources and may outline techniques/tools for finding such materials online such as Google Scholar.

Learning Objective: 2.3: Demonstrate how to search and review the research literature. | 2.4: Develop a strategy for searching the web.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Searching the Literature | Searching the Web

Difficulty Level: Hard

4. Explain the differences between deductive and inductive research.

Ans: Answers may vary. Deductive research begins with an observation or theory, which may lead a researcher to collect data. Inductive research begins with data, which are then used to develop a theory to account for the data.

Learning Objective: 2.5: Describe three key social research strategies and when they are best used.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Social Research Strategies | Explanatory Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. What is theory? What role does theory play in social science research?

Ans: Answers may vary. A theory is a logically interrelated set of propositions that helps us make sense of interrelated phenomena and predict behavior or attitudes that are likely to occur when certain conditions are met. Theories help scientists decide which questions are important to ask about the social world. Students should discuss how social scientists use theory to contextualize their research and to account for data. Students may also discuss how social scientists work to link theory to data.

Learning Objective: 2.2: Discuss the role of theory in social research.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Social Theories

Difficulty Level: Medium