

Chapter 1: Science, Society, and Criminological Research

TEST BANK

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. When we conclude what we have observed or what we know to be true for some cases is true for all cases, we have committed this error in reasoning.

- A. inaccurate observation
- B. overgeneralization
- C. resistance to change
- D. illogical reasoning

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Overgeneralization

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. A researcher believes girls are more preoccupied with the way they dress than boys. Due to this assumption, he focuses his observations only on girls and their interactions with their friends, neglecting how boys present themselves to others. This is an example of _____.

- A. assumption error
- B. overgeneralization
- C. illogical reasoning
- D. selective observation

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Selective or Inaccurate Observation

Difficulty Level: Application

3. If a woman says she is hungry and we think she said "hunted," we have made a(n) _____.

- A. selective observation
- B. inaccurate observation
- C. assumption error
- D. selective observation

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Selective or Inaccurate Observation

Difficulty Level: Hard

4. Which of the following is not an important goal of social research?

- A. exploration

- B. evaluation
- C. causation
- D. description

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 4: Identify the four types of social research

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Social Criminological Research in Action

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. Both explanatory and evaluation research studies are concerned with the causes and effects of social phenomena. The difference between them is that evaluation research focuses on the _____.

- A. effect of particular policies or programs
- B. meanings that people give their actions
- C. description of the social phenomena of interest
- D. consideration of the impact of social context

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 4: Identify the four types of social research

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Social Criminological Research in Action

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. When someone doesn't critically evaluate the ideas of those in positions of authority, they are committing this error in reasoning.

- A. illogical reasoning
- B. overgeneralization
- C. selective observation
- D. resistance to change

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Resistance to Change

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. The scientific method is a way of knowing that relies on empirical investigation, known as _____.

- A. pseudoscience
- B. methodology
- C. epistemology
- D. transparency

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 2: Define social science compared to pseudoscience

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Science Versus Pseudoscience

Difficulty Level: Easy

8. If a social service agency seeks better assessment of youth violence so they can identify needs and allocate responsibility among agencies that can meet those needs, we would say that they have _____ motivations to do research.

- A. personal
- B. academic
- C. policy
- D. epistemological

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 3: Explain the motivations of social research

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Why We Do Criminological Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. A social scientist who conducts research on youth violence after first volunteering in an organization dealing with at-risk youth may be said to have _____ motivations.

- A. policy
- B. academic
- C. personal
- D. egotistic

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 3: Explain the motivations of social research

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Why We Do Criminological Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Research that seeks to discover the meanings people give to their actions would be conducting which type of research?

- A. exploratory
- B. descriptive
- C. explanatory
- D. evaluation

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 3: Explain the motivations of social research

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Why We Do Criminological Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

11. Researchers with a belief that an objective reality exists apart from the perceptions of those who observe it, are conducting research with this philosophy.

- A. feminism
- B. positivism
- C. postpositivism
- D. interpretivism

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 5: Explain the difference between the positivist and constructivist orientations to social research

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Positivism and Postpositivism

Difficulty Level: Hard

12. Surveys and experiments that record variation in social life in terms of categories that vary in amount are likely to employ which research method?

- A. qualitative
- B. constructivist
- C. triangulation
- D. quantitative

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 6: Understand the difference between quantitative and qualitative methods and the advantages of mixed methods

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Medium

13. A popular and versatile research method that uses a question format is a(n) _____.

- A. questionnaire
- B. observation
- C. experiment
- D. survey

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 6: Understand the differences between quantitative and qualitative methods and the advantages of mixed methods

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Specific Types of Research Methods

Difficulty Level: Easy

14. The everyday error in reasoning that involves prematurely jumping to conclusions and arguing on the basis of invalid assumption is known as _____.

- A. overgeneralization
- B. selective observation
- C. illogical reasoning
- D. resistance to change

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Illogical Reasoning

Difficulty Level: Easy

15. When we trust the judgments of people who have special training, such as a doctor or a lawyer, we are accepting _____.

- A. wisdom and understanding
- B. ego-based commitment
- C. uncritical agreement with authority
- D. none of these

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Resistance to Change

Difficulty Level: Medium

16. When we want to understand the direct relationship between two or more things, we are using which type of research?

- A. exploratory
- B. descriptive
- C. explanatory
- D. qualitative

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 4: Identify the four types of social research

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Uncritical Agreement

Difficulty Level: Medium

17. The everyday error that involves the reluctance to change ideas even in light of new information is called _____.

- A. overgeneralization
- B. inaccurate observation
- C. illogical reasoning
- D. resistance to change

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Resistance to Change

Difficulty Level: Easy

18. When we want to understand the direct relationship between two or more things, we are using which type of research?

- A. exploratory
- B. descriptive
- C. explanatory
- D. qualitative

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 4: Identify the four types of social research

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Uncritical Agreement

Difficulty Level: Medium

19. Social science is best defined as _____.

- A. a set of logical, systematic, documented methods for investigating nature and natural processes
- B. the application of scientific methods to study humanity
- C. systematic selection of social objects
- D. the assumption that social phenomena resemble biological and chemical phenomena

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2: Define social science compared to pseudoscience

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: How the Scientific Approach Is Different

Difficulty Level: Knowledge

20. Social science overcomes the reliance on tradition or unquestioning respect for authority by _____.

- A. using systematic procedures for selecting individuals to study that are representative for the groups to which we hope to generalize
- B. using explicit criteria for establishing causality
- C. requiring systematic methods to answer questions
- D. answering questions from an ego-based commitment

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 2: Science Versus Pseudoscience

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: How the Scientific Approach Is Different

Difficulty Level: Easy

21. When we prematurely jump to conclusions, we are using _____.

- A. the exploratory method
- B. illogical reasoning
- C. vague reasoning
- D. all of these

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Illogical Reasoning

Difficulty Level: Knowledge

22. Developing valid knowledge about how society is organized does not tell us how society _____.

- A. may be organized at some point
- B. should be organized
- C. interprets its organization
- D. judges empirical data

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 5: Explain the difference between the positivist and constructivist orientation to social research

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: A Positivist Research Goal: Advancing Knowledge

Difficulty Level: Hard

23. When the data for all seven sites in the Esbensen et al. (2013) study, there were _____.

- A. several differences found which supported gang affiliation as the root cause of violent offending between the experimental and control group students
- B. no differences in violent offending between the experimental and control group students over the 4-year period
- C. very few differences in the groups over the 6-year period
- D. findings to suggest that students who participated in the G.R.E.A.T. program were more likely to become members of gangs

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 5: Explain the difference between the positivist and constructivist orientations to social research

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Evaluation Research

Difficulty Level: Hard

24. The belief that there is an empirical reality but that our understanding of it is limited by its complexity and by the biases and other limitations of researchers is known as _____.

- A. realism
- B. positivism
- C. postpositivism
- D. intersubjective agreement

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 5: Explain the difference between the positivist and constructivist orientations to social research

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Highlights

Difficulty Level: Application

25. Research with a focus on women's lives that often includes an orientation to personal experience, subjective orientations, the researcher's standpoint, and emotions is _____.

- A. positivist research
- B. realist research
- C. postpositivist research
- D. feminist research

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 5: Explain the difference between the positivist and constructionist orientations to social research

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Feminist Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

26. Methods such as surveys and experiments that record variation in social life in terms of categories that vary in amount are _____.

- A. inaccurate observations
- B. overgeneralized methods
- C. quantitative methods
- D. qualitative methods

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 5: Understand the differences between quantitative and qualitative methods and the advantages of mixed methods

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Medium

27. Participant observation, intensive interviewing, and focus groups that are designed to capture social life as participants experience it are _____.

- A. quantitative methods
- B. realist methods
- C. epistemological methods
- D. qualitative methods

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 5: Understand the differences between quantitative and qualitative methods and the advantages of mixed methods

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Medium

28. Analysis of data collected by someone other than the researcher is known as _____.

- A. feminist research
- B. ineffective research
- C. secondary analysis
- D. none of the these

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 5: Understand the differences between quantitative and qualitative methods and the advantages of mixed methods

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Specific Types of Research Methods

Difficulty Level: Easy

29. Research in which social events of only one time period in the past are studied is known as _____.

- A. mapping research
- B. historical events research
- C. analytical events research

D. quantitative research

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 5: Understand the differences between quantitative and qualitative methods and the advantages of mixed methods

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Specific Types of Research Methods

Difficulty Level: Medium

TRUE/FALSE

1. Selective observations are chosen because they are not in accord with the preferences or beliefs of the observer.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Selective or Inaccurate Observation

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. Observations based on faulty perceptions of empirical reality are accurate observations.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Selective or Inaccurate Observation

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. Overgeneralizations occur when people conclude that what is true for some cases is true for all cases.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Selective or Inaccurate Observation

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Being transparent is an important feature of the scientific method in that it requires procedures, methods, and data analyses of any study to be presented clearly for the purposes of replication.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2: Define social science compared to pseudoscience

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Science Versus Pseudoscience

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Exploratory research is designed to identify causes and effects.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 4: Identify the four types of social research

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Exploration: How Did Schools Avert a Shooting Rampage

Difficulty Level: Easy

6. Descriptive research suggests how social phenomena (such as neighborhood characteristics) affect other social phenomena (such as youth outcomes).

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 4: Identify the four types of social research

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Description: How Prevalent is Youth Violence?

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. Exploratory research can be used to describe the impact of social programs.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 4: Identify the four types of social research

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Exploration: How Did Schools Avert a Shooting Rampage?

Difficulty Level: Easy

8. Prematurely jumping to conclusions and arguing on the basis of invalid assumptions is called illogical reasoning.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Illogical Reasoning

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. The goal of the traditional positivist scientific approach is to advance scientific knowledge.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 5: Explain the difference between the positivist and constructivist orientations to social research

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: A Positivist Research Goal: Advancing Knowledge

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Interpretivism is the belief that reality is socially constructed and that the goal of social scientists is to understand what meanings people give to that reality.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 5: Explain the difference between the positivist and constructivist orientations to social research

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Interpretivism and Constructivism

Difficulty Level: Hard

11. The use of multiple methods to study one research question is known as triangulation.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 6: Understand the differences between quantitative and qualitative methods and the advantages of mixed methods

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Medium

12. Secondary data analysis is the reanalysis of already existing data.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 6: Understand the differences between quantitative and qualitative methods and the advantages of mixed methods

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Specific Types of Research Methods

Difficulty Level: Easy

13. Resistance to change is the reluctance to change our ideas in light of new information.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Resistance to Change

Difficulty Level: Easy

14. An example of ego-based commitments would be when we uncritically agree with authority figures.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Resistance to Change

Difficulty Level: Easy

15. Explanatory research seeks to identify causes and effects of social phenomena.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 4: Identify the four types of social research

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Explanation: What Factors are Related to Youth Delinquency and Violence?

Difficulty Level: Easy

16. Researchers with a philosophy of positivism believe that an objective reality exists apart from the perceptions of those who observe it.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 5: Explain the difference between the positivist and constructivist orientations to social research

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Positivism and Postpositivism

Difficulty Level: Hard

17. Positivists believe that there is an external, objective reality but are sensitive to the complexity of the reality and limitations of the scientists who study it.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 5: Explain the difference between the positivist and constructivist orientations to social research

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Positivism and Postpositivism

Difficulty Level: Hard

18. One of the positivist guidelines is that ideas should be tested against empirical reality without becoming too personally invested in a particular outcome.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 5: Explain the difference between the positivist and constructivist orientations to social research

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Positivist Research Guidelines

Difficulty Level: Medium

19. Positivist guidelines say that a researcher should not maintain a skeptical stance toward current knowledge because they should have confidence in their investigations.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 5: Explain the difference between the positivist and constructivist orientations to social research

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Positivist Research Guidelines

Difficulty Level: Medium

20. The constructivist paradigm is an extension of interpretivist philosophy.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 5: Explain the difference between the positivist and constructivist orientations to social research.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Interpretivism and Constructivism

Difficulty Level: Hard

ESSAY

1. Name and describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning.

Ans: Overgeneralization, Selective/Inaccurate Observation, Illogical Reasoning, Resistance to Change

1. *Overgeneralization*—when we conclude that what we have observed or what we know to be true for some cases is true for all cases

2. *Selective observation*—choosing to look only at things that align with our preferences or beliefs

3. *Inaccurate observation*—observations based on faulty perceptions of empirical reality

i. *Illogical reasoning*—prematurely jumping to conclusions and arguing on the basis of invalid assumptions.

4. *Resistance to change*—reluctance to change ideas in light of new information, due to ego-based commitments, excessive devotion to tradition, or uncritical agreement with authorities

Learning Objective: 1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Everyday Errors in Reasoning

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. What is social science? How does it compare to pseudoscience?

Ans: Social science relies on systematic methods to answer questions, and it does so in a way that allows others to inspect and evaluate its methods.

Pseudoscience bases findings on intuition, gut reactions, or our own experience.

Learning Objective: 2: Define social science compared to pseudoscience

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Science Versus Pseudoscience

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. What are the motivations of social research?

Ans: Policy motivations—social service agencies and elected officials often want better assessments and descriptions of issues so they can identify needs and allocate responsibility among the proper agencies.

Academic motivations—researchers often explore questions concerning the impact of societal conditions and their relationship to crime and violence.

Personal motivations—many researchers conduct research on an issue (like youth violence, for instance) because they want to prevent youth violence or ameliorate the consequences of the violence when it occurs.

Learning Objective: 3: Explain the motivations of social research

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Why We Do Criminological Research

Difficulty Level: Hard

4. Identify and describe the four types of social research.

Ans: Criminological research can be descriptive, exploratory, explanatory, or evaluative or some combination of these.

Learning Objective: 4: Identify the four types of social research.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Social Criminological Research in Action

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. What is the difference between the positivist and constructivist orientations to social research?

Ans: Postpositivism is a philosophy of reality that is closely related to positivism. Postpositivists believe that there is an external, objective reality, but they are sensitive to the complexity of this reality and the limitations of the scientists who study it. The paradigm of constructivism extends interpretivist philosophy by emphasizing the importance of exploring how different stakeholders in a social setting construct their beliefs (Guba & Lincoln, 1989). It gives particular attention to the different goals of researchers and other participants in a research setting and seeks to develop a consensus among participants about how to understand the focus of inquiry.

Learning Objective: 5: Explain the differences between the positivist and constructivist orientations to social research

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Social Research Philosophies

Difficulty Level: Hard

6. What are the differences between quantitative and qualitative methods?

Ans: Quantitative methods such as surveys and experiments record variation in social life in terms of categories that vary in amount. Quantitative data are either numbers or attributes that can be ordered in terms of magnitude. Qualitative methods include participant observation, intensive interviewing, and focus groups designed to capture social life as participants experience it rather than in categories predetermined by the researcher. Qualitative data treated as qualitative are mostly written or spoken words or observations that do not have a direct numerical interpretation.

Learning Objective: 6: Understand the differences between quantitative and qualitative methods and the advantages of mixed methods

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Hard

7. What are mixed methods? What are advantages to using mixed methods?

Ans: A combination of both qualitative and quantitative methods to study one research question. Can triangulate to get clearer picture of social reality by viewing it from different perspectives.

Learning Objective: 6: Understand the differences between quantitative and qualitative methods and the advantages of mixed methods

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Hard

8. What are the three reasons we might commit the everyday error called resistance to change?

Ans: Three reasons include ego-based commitments, excessive devotion to tradition, and uncritical agreement with authority.

Learning Objective: 1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Resistance to Change

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. What is participant observation? Give an example.

Ans: Participant observation is a type of field research in which a researcher develops a sustained and intensive relationship with people while they go about their normal activities.

Learning Objective: 6: Understand the difference between quantitative and qualitative methods and the advantages of mixed methods

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. What is the NCVS? Who does it survey, and what is the topic? Why is it important?

Ans: The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is the only ongoing annual survey sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). Among other questions, the NCVS asks questions such as "Has anyone attacked or threatened you with a weapon (for instance, a gun or knife) or by something thrown (such as a rock or bottle)? Include any grabbing, punching, or choking." Estimates indicate that youth ages 12 to 24 have the highest rates of violent victimization. Despite the recent increases observed in homicide rates for this age group in some locations, their victimization trends have generally declined since the peak of the early 1990s mentioned earlier.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Learning Objective: 6: Understand the differences between quantitative and qualitative methods and the advantages of mixed methods

Answer Location: Description: How Prevalent is Youth Violence

Difficulty Level: Medium

11. What is the YRBS? What does it measure?

Ans: The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is another large research survey that estimates the magnitude of youth violence (along with other risk-taking behavior, such as taking drugs and smoking) and has been conducted every 2 years in the United States since 1990. To measure the extent of youth violence, students are asked questions such as "During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight?" and "During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight in which you were injured and had to be seen by a doctor or nurse?"

Learning Objective: 6: Understand the differences between quantitative and qualitative methods and the advantages of mixed methods

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Description: How Prevalent is Youth Violence

Difficulty Level: Medium

12. What is intersubjective agreement?

Ans: Agreement between scientists about the nature of reality; often upheld as a more reasonable goal for science than certainty about an objective reality

Learning Objective: 6: Understand the differences between quantitative and qualitative methods and the advantages of mixed methods

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Positivism and Postpositivism

Difficulty Level: Medium

13. What is participatory action research?

Ans: A type of research in which the researcher involves some organizational members as active participants throughout the process of studying an organization; the goal is making changes in the organization

Learning Objective: 6: Understand the differences between quantitative and qualitative methods and the advantages of mixed methods

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Positivism and Postpositivism

Difficulty Level: Medium

14. What does it mean to have an integrated philosophy in research?

Ans: As noted in Chapter 1, many scholars are beginning to advance mixed-methods approaches to research that rely on both philosophies. We highlight mixed-methods approaches throughout this book, and Chapter 11 focuses exclusively on the relative strengths of single-method approaches versus a mixed-methods approach. We argue that there is value to both positivist and interpretivist philosophies and that there are good reasons to prefer an integrated philosophy. Researchers influenced by a positivist philosophy should be careful to consider how their own social background shapes their research approaches and interpretations, just as interpretivist researchers caution us to do. Researchers influenced more by an interpretivist philosophy should be careful to ensure that they use rigorous procedures to check the trustworthiness of their interpretations of data (Riessman, 2008). If we are not willing to ask hard questions about our research and the evidence we collect, we are not ready to investigate the social world.

Learning Objective: 6: Understand the differences between quantitative and qualitative methods and the advantages of mixed methods

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: An Integrated Philosophy

Difficulty Level: Medium

15. What is a mixed-methods type of science?

Ans: Many researchers are electing to garner the strengths of both quantitative and qualitative research philosophies and rely on mixed methods to study one research question. This is sometimes called triangulation. The latter term suggests that a researcher can get a clearer picture of the social reality being studied by viewing it from several different perspectives. Each will have some liabilities in a specific research application, and all can benefit from a combination of one or more other methods (Brewer and Hunter 1989; Sechrest and Sidani 1995).

Learning Objective: 6: Understand the differences between quantitative and qualitative methods and the advantages of mixed methods

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Medium