

Monette/ Sullivan/ DeJong/Hilton, *Applied Social Research: A Tool for the Human Services*, 9e
Test Bank

Chapter 2: The Logic of Social Research

Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following would be true of science as a source of knowledge about the world?
 - a. It is a nearly infallible source of knowledge.
 - b. It has advantages that make it superior to other ways of gaining knowledge.
 - c. It is superior to traditional sources of knowledge but not to experience as a source of knowledge.
 - d. If done properly, it has characteristics that make it resistant to change, even when such change is called for.

ANS: B

PG: 20

2. A psychoanalyst accepts the teachings of Sigmund Freud without question, assuming that such a great historical figure could not be wrong. This is an example of:
 - a. experiential knowledge.
 - b. scientific knowledge.
 - c. traditional knowledge.
 - d. practice knowledge.

ANS: C

PG: 21

3. One of the major disadvantages of traditional knowledge is:
 - a. it changes too rapidly, being easily influenced by fads and whims.
 - b. it tends to confuse knowledge with values.
 - c. there are some issues, relating to religion or personal values that tradition cannot give us answers to.
 - d. all of the other answers represent disadvantages.

ANS: B

PG: 21

4. Experiential knowledge is based on:
 - a. firsthand, personal observations of events.
 - b. custom, habit, and repetition.
 - c. systematic observations of events.
 - d. acceptance of someone's leadership and authority.

ANS: A
PG: 21

5. Which of the following is a limitation of experiential knowledge?
- a. It is often based on a limited and biased range of observations.
 - b. Human perceptions are unreliable.
 - c. People in a position to experience something directly frequently have a vested interest in perceiving that thing in a certain way.
 - d. All of the other answers represent limitations.

ANS: D
PG: 21-22

6. The adage “birds of a feather flock together” is used in the text as a way of illustrating which source of knowledge?
- a. common sense
 - b. experience
 - c. authority
 - d. tradition

ANS: A
PG: 22

7. One of the criticisms of common sense knowledge is that:
- a. it is rarely accurate.
 - b. it is not based on experience.
 - c. it relies too heavily on experience and not on tradition.
 - d. it often explains everything, even when those explanations conflict with one another.

ANS: D
PG: 22

8. Which of the following is a similarity between science and journalism as sources of knowledge?
- a. both use observation
 - b. both use replication
 - c. both use systematic procedures
 - d. both use authority

ANS: A
PG: 22

9. Which of the following are differences between science and journalism as sources of

knowledge?

- a. Science uses observation but journalism does not.
- b. Science is concerned with theory building but journalism is not.
- c. Science is sometimes based on interviews but journalism never is.
- d. All of the other answers represent differences.

ANS: B

PG: 23

10. Which of the following would be the most complete definition of "science" as a source of knowledge?

- a. It is the systematic observation of phenomena.
- b. It is the systematic and objective study of the world.
- c. It is a method of obtaining objective knowledge about the world through systematic observation.
- d. It is a method of obtaining objective knowledge of the world through the direct experience of it.

ANS: C

PG: 23

11. Which of the following is NOT one of the distinguishing characteristics of science listed in the text?

- a. empirical
- b. provisional
- c. objectivity
- d. evaluation

ANS: D

PG: 23-24

12. Which of the following is a reason for replication in science?

- a. to reduce the chance of error or misinterpretation in research.
- b. to test a common-sense theory about some phenomenon.
- c. to move from the level of testing theories to that of testing hypotheses.
- d. All of the other answers represent such reasons.

ANS: A

PG: 24

13. According to the text, scientific human service practice should have all of the following EXCEPT:

- a. it should stress problem assessment through direct observation of client problems.
- b. practice procedures should be well organized, clearly specified, public and repeatable.
- c. practice models and techniques should be viewed as fair game for criticism and possible refutation.
- d. practice approaches should be based on the practitioner's intuitive, common sense assessment of the suitability of techniques.

ANS: D

PG: 25-26

14. According to the text, the unwanted intrusion of personal values into service delivery can be controlled by all of the following EXCEPT:

- a. removing all values from the delivery of human services.
- b. using empirically-based practice approaches.
- c. incorporating into practice some of the checks against bias that are a routine part of scientific research.
- d. conducting research into the role of values in service delivery.

ANS: A

PG: 25-26

15. A *theory* would be best defined as:

- a. speculations that social scientists make regarding human behavior and social phenomena.
- b. a set of interrelated, abstract concepts and statements that offer an explanation of some phenomenon.
- c. assumptions that have been proven through research to be true.
- d. concepts and statements that may be true but about which there is no evidence.

ANS: B

PG: 26-27

16. One of the key things about theories is that they:

- a. offer an abstract explanation of phenomena.
- b. offer concrete descriptions of phenomena.
- c. tell us what sort of research design to use.
- d. offer an abstract explanation of phenomena, and tell us what sort of research design to use.

ANS: A
PG: 28

17. In understanding the problems confronted by children of gays and lesbians, research in Practice 2.1 argues that:

- a. traditional teachings are the best source of knowledge.
- b. experiential knowledge is generally superior to scientific knowledge.
- c. journalistic knowledge provides the most detailed theoretical understanding of problems.
- d. scientific observation can point out where personal values unreasonably intrude on intervention decisions.

ANS: D
PG: 27

18. The major difference between personal theories and scientific theories is that scientific theories:

- a. are not tentative.
- b. are accurate interpretations of reality.
- c. are based on casual observation.
- d. are more precise, detailed, and explicit.

ANS: D
PG: 28

19. Theories serve as a guide for research in that:

- a. you cannot conduct research without the direction of a theory.
- b. theories focus research attention on certain phenomena as being relevant to the issues of concern.
- c. theories tell you what kind of research design would be most appropriate for a given study.
- d. theories tell you whether unwarranted biases have been introduced into the research process.

ANS: B
PG: 29

20. In choosing among a number of intervention theories, a major consideration in the selection of a theory to use is:

- a. how well known the theorist is.
- b. how easy it is to learn to apply the theory.
- c. how much empirical evidence supports the theory.
- d. how abstract the theory is.

ANS: C
PG: 30

21. In the process of theory verification in research, _____ is analogous to _____ in the process of theory verification in practice.

- a. research findings...theory
- b. theory...intervention plan
- c. intervention plan...observations
- d. observation...intervention

ANS: D
PG: 30

22. Which of the following would be most clearly a nominal definition of poverty?

- a. an annual income of less than \$10,000.
- b. a deficiency of resources to the extent that one can't obtain a minimally acceptable lifestyle.
- c. an annual income that is less than one half of the median family income.
- d. all people who are receiving some form of public assistance.

ANS: B
PG: 31

23. A "negative" relationship is the same thing as a/an:

- a. linear relationship.
- b. curvilinear relationship.
- c. inverse relationship.
- d. nominal relationship.

ANS: C
PG: 32

24. Which of the following statements indicates a positive relationship between the variables X and Y?

- a. As the value of X increases, the value of Y decreases.
- b. As the value of Y increases, the value of X decreases.
- c. As the value of X increases, the value of Y remains unchanged.
- d. As the value of X decreases, the value of Y decreases.

ANS: D
PG: 32

25. Why is careful operational definition a critical issue in terms of minority groups and disadvantaged populations?

- a. Inappropriate operational definition can lead to a biased, distorted view of a minority group.
- b. Use of official designations such as "cleared by arrest" tends to under-represent minorities in crime statistics.
- c. Because nominal definitions of minority groups are racist.
- d. None of these answers is correct.

ANS: A

PG: 33-34

26. When scientific analysis moves from the level of theoretical statements to that of testable hypotheses, the process has involved:

- a. inductive reasoning.
- b. deductive reasoning.
- c. common sense reasoning.
- d. operational definitions.

ANS: B

PG: 34

27. Which of the following is true regarding reasoning in scientific research?

- a. Inductive research is sometimes conducted without the benefit of prior deductive reasoning.
- b. Inductive reasoning and deductive reasoning are always used together.
- c. In deriving hypotheses from theories, inductive reasoning is used.
- d. In the absence of theory, neither inductive nor deductive reasoning can be used.

ANS: A

PG: 35

28. Reasoning that involves inferring a specific conclusion from some general or abstract premises is called:

- a. inductive reasoning.
- b. nomothetic reasoning.
- c. idiographic reasoning.
- d. deductive reasoning.

ANS: D

PG: 34-35

29. A(n) _____ explanation focuses on a class of events and attempts to specify the conditions that seem common to all those events.

- a. idiographic
- b. nomothetic
- c. deductive
- d. interpretive

ANS: B

PG: 35, 37

30. Which of the following statements most clearly represents an effort at a nomothetic explanation?

- a. a study attempting to show whether all juveniles who shoplift have a weak attachment to their parents.
- b. a case study of the life of one juvenile who shoplifts.
- c. a study attempting to identify all of the factors that influenced one individual to shoplift.
- d. a study that seeks a complete description of the social circumstances of a single shoplifter.

ANS: A

PG: 35, 37

31. Which of the following is stated in the text as a weakness of nomothetic explanations?

- a. They have limited generalizability.
- b. They don't let you say for sure what will happen in any particular case.
- c. They focus too heavily on individual cases.
- d. They cannot be subjected to statistical analysis.

ANS: B

PG: 37

32. 32. A/an _____ explanation focuses on a single person, event, or situation and attempts to specify all the conditions that helped produce it.

- a. idiographic
- b. nomothetic
- c. deductive
- d. interpretive

ANS: A

PG: 37

33. Regarding nomothetic and idiographic explanations in science, the text concludes that:

- a. idiographic explanations are outdated.
- b. nomothetic explanations are better at identifying the totality of causes at work in a situation.
- c. both are equally useful for generalizing to large populations.
- d. neither is inherently better than the other and each provides a valuable, though incomplete, route to gaining knowledge.

ANS: D

PG: 37-38

34. In the study of burnout among human service workers, theories of organizational structure and change identify which of the following variables as causing burnout?

- a. insufficient emotional strength of social workers
- b. bureaucratization in human service organizations
- c. centralization in human service organizations
- d. bureaucratization and centralization in human service organizations

ANS: D

PG: 36

35. When social work researcher W. David Harrison explained burnout among social workers on the basis of role theory, he was using:

- a. inductive reasoning.
- b. deductive reasoning.
- c. common sense reasoning.
- d. experiential knowledge.

ANS: B

PG: 36

36. Which of the following statements would be most clearly consistent with the positivist approach to science?

- a. social reality is subjective and arises out of social meaning created through social interaction
- b. science is a vehicle that scientists use to gain power, respect, and legitimacy in society
- c. *verstehen* is the most legitimate way of gaining knowledge about the world
- d. science uses objective techniques to discover a world that exists independently of the scientists' perceptions if it

ANS: D

PG: 39

37. Which of the following is the paradigm that is most widely held among scientists?

- a. positivism
- b. the interpretive approach
- c. the feminist approach
- d. the *verstehen* approach

ANS: A

PG: 39

38. The interpretive paradigm in the social sciences would be most clearly consistent with which statement?

- a. scientists merely discover what exists in the world
- b. true understanding is gained through abstract explanation
- c. scientists help to create social reality through their scientific work
- d. structures of oppression exist objectively, even if people don't recognize their existence

ANS: C

PG: 41

39. To infer causality, all of the following must be present EXCEPT:

- a. there must be a statistical association between two variables.
- b. one variable must occur prior in time to the other variable.
- c. there must be a positive relationship between the two variables.
- d. all of the other answers state factors that must be present.

ANS: C

PG: 42

40. A spurious relationship is one in which:

- a. there is a positive relationship between two variables.
- b. the relationship between two variables disappears when the effects of other variables are taken into account.
- c. the independent variable occurs later in time than does the dependent variable.
- d. inductive reasoning is used but not deductive reasoning.

ANS: B

PG: 42

Essay Questions

1. Why is science a superior source of knowledge compared to tradition, experience, or common sense?
2. Compare and contrast journalism and science as ways of gaining knowledge about the

world. How are they similar to one another and how are they different?

3. The text presents five characteristics of science that set it apart from other sources of knowledge. Identify and describe those characteristics.
4. Discuss the five characteristics of science as they might be applied to human service practice.
5. Discuss the functions of theories in conducting social research.
6. The text provides guidelines for developing hypotheses. Identify and discuss these guidelines.
7. Differentiate between deductive reasoning and inductive reasoning. What is the role of each in the scientific process?
8. Define and describe nomothetic and idiographic explanation. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each?
9. Compare and contrast the positivist and nonpositivist paradigms in science.
10. What three conditions must be established in order to have demonstrated the existence of a causal relationship between two variables? Explain what each condition involves.