

Chapter 2 Theory and Social Research

2.1 Essay Questions

1) Describe how concrete and abstract concepts differ. Give an example of an abstract ideal type and a concrete classification.

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Topic: The Parts of Theory

Skill: 08. Provide examples of abstract ideas/principles

Objective: 02.01 Describe concepts in theory & theoretical frameworks

2) How do prediction, theoretical explanation, and understanding differ?

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 07. Make distinctions among related ideas/processes

Objective: 02.02 Distinguish explanations, prediction, & understanding

3) Why do we need more than association to demonstrate a causal relationship?

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 06. Explain reasons for using a specific process/procedure

Objective: 02.03 Understand causality & causal relationships

4) Why do researchers worry about alternative explanations when stating a causal relationships?

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 06. Explain reasons for using a specific process/procedure

Objective: 02.03 Understand causality & causal relationships

5) What is the difference between inductive and deductive approaches to research?

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 10. Utilize both inductive & deductive approaches

Objective: 02.06 Distinguish inductive & deductive theory building

6) How to structural and interpretative explanations differ?

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 07. Make distinctions among related ideas/processes
Objective: 02.08 Describe various methods of explanation

7) Describe how micro-, meso-, and macro-levels of social reality differ.

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 07. Make distinctions among related ideas/processes

Objective: 02.05 Understand micro-, meso-, & macro-levels

8) Provide an ideal type of a concept and explain how it might be used.

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Topic: The Parts of Theory

Skill: 08. Provide examples of abstract ideas/principles

Objective: 02.01 Describe concepts in theory & theoretical frameworks

9) How are major theoretical frameworks used in research, if at all?

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 08. Provide examples of abstract ideas/principles

Objective: 02.01 Describe concepts in theory & theoretical frameworks

10) What are nomothetic and idiographic models of social science, and which of the three major approaches use each of them?

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Topic: The Three Major Approaches to Social Science

Skill: 07. Make distinctions among related ideas/processes

Objective: 02.10 Distinguish between nomothetic & idiographic

2.2 Multiple Choice Questions

1) Professor Turtle cross-classifies the degree of conflict in a divorce (bitter, unpleasant, neutral, friendly) by whether the divorce involved the custody of children. He ends up with eight types of divorce and uses them to study divorce. Professor Turtle developed a(n)

A) causal explanation.

B) aggregate.

C) classification.

D) grounded theory.

E) negative relationship.

Answer: C

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Topic: The Parts of Theory

Skill: 01. Apply abstract learning to realistic situations

Objective: 02.01 Describe concepts in theory & theoretical frameworks

2) Which concept has the highest level of abstraction, i.e., it is the most abstract?

- A) a murder
- B) the size of a city's population
- C) years of education attained
- D) racial injustice
- E) an African American child

Answer: D

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Topic: The Parts of Theory

Skill: 01. Apply abstract learning to realistic situations

Objective: 02.01 Describe concepts in theory & theoretical frameworks

3) The following set of ideas: legal system, punishment, violent crime, income/race inequality, belief in deterrence, and human rights, would be considered a concept cluster for which of the following concepts?

- A) marriage customs
- B) immigration
- C) art gallery
- D) death penalty
- E) educational system

Answer: D

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Topic: The Parts of Theory

Skill: 01. Apply abstract learning to realistic situations

Objective: 02.01 Describe concepts in theory & theoretical frameworks

4) Mikiso Hane studied how rice farming fits into Japanese society. Before he began the study, he relied on his prior knowledge that rice is a basic part of the diet of Japanese people. This is called one of his

- A) ideal types.
- B) assumptions.
- C) classifications.
- D) predictions.
- E) aggregations.

Answer: B

Diff: 8 Page Ref: 28

Topic: The Parts of Theory

Skill: 01. Apply abstract learning to realistic situations

Objective: 02.01 Describe concepts in theory & theoretical frameworks

5) Dalessha developed a pure model of the "street walker" prostitute to help her study a large city ghetto. She is using a(n)

- A) aggregation.
- B) replication.
- C) ideal type.
- D) classification.
- E) jargon.

Answer: C

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Topic: The Parts of Theory

Skill: 01. Apply abstract learning to realistic situations

Objective: 02.01 Describe concepts in theory & theoretical frameworks

6) Which of the following propositions has the greatest theoretical range/level?

- A) Americans who marry when they are older than 30 years old are less likely to divorce.
- B) College students who study more hours get higher grades on examinations.
- C) Almost all of the people who rob other people in major Canadian cities are males.
- D) During the past century, people in human societies moved toward using mass media on a more frequent basis.
- E) Young children who attended day care performed better in high school than children who stayed at home.

Answer: D

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 01. Apply abstract learning to realistic situations

Objective: 02.01 Describe concepts in theory & theoretical frameworks

7) How do inductive and deductive approaches to social theory and research differ?

- A) Inductive begins at the top of society and moves towards the bottom. Deductive begins at the bottom of society and moves towards the top.
- B) Inductive begins with small things and moves towards big things. Deductive begins with big things and moves towards small things.
- C) Inductive begins with concrete or observable things and moves towards abstract or theoretical ideas. Deductive begins with abstract or theoretical ideas and moves towards concrete or observable things.
- D) Inductive begins with big things at the top of society and moves towards small things at the bottom of society. Deductive begins at the bottom with small things and moves towards big things at the top.
- E) Inductive begins with the abstract or theoretical ideas and moves towards the concrete or observable. Deductive begins with concrete or observable things and moves towards abstract or theoretical ideas.

Answer: C

Diff: 2 Page Ref: 32

Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 07. Make distinctions among related ideas/processes

Objective: 02.06 Distinguish inductive & deductive theory building

8) Which statement about prediction and causal explanation is true?

- A) Prediction and explanation are two words for the same thing.
- B) Explanation is easier to show with the scientific method than prediction.
- C) If one has prediction, one has all the basics of a causal explanation.
- D) If one has a good causal explanation, one should be able to make accurate predictions.
- E) Predictions are to basic research as explanations are to applied research.

Answer: D

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 05. Show awareness of appropriate procedures/techniques

Objective: 02.02 Distinguish explanations, prediction, & understanding

9) In a structural explanation, a researcher

- A) explains something of interest by identifying its cause or causes.
- B) describes a chain of cause and effect as being like a string of balls in a row such that hitting one causes it to hit another and so forth.
- C) attempts to comprehend or mentally grasp the social world in terms of the subjective world view of other people.
- D) uses an interconnected web of concepts and relationships around a central idea or describes a sequence of phases in which one occurs before the next.
- E) A and B

Answer: D

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 07. Make distinctions among related ideas/processes

Objective: 02.08 Describe various methods of explanation

10) Luis theorized the dispersion of European settlers in northern Mexico during the sixteenth century was based on following river valleys. This is a

- A) micro-level theory.
- B) meso-level theory.
- C) macro-level theory.

Answer: C

Diff: 5 Page Ref: 32

Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 01. Apply abstract learning to realistic situations

Objective: 02.05 Understand micro-, meso-, & macro-levels

11) To make a causal statement, a researcher needs all of the following, EXCEPT

- A) temporal order.
- B) association.
- C) elimination of alternative explanation.
- D) mathematical proof.
- E) all the above are necessary.

Answer: D

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 06. Explain reasons for using a specific process/procedure

Objective: 02.07 Identify the three conditions for causality

12) Professor Tun-jen Cheng wanted to study the cause for thousands of people leaving Hong Kong to move to Vancouver, British Columbia. In order to establish temporal order in his causal argument, he must show which of the following?

- A) There is a correlation between events in Hong Kong and a decision to move.
- B) Events occurred in Hong Kong before people moved to Vancouver.
- C) The type of people who left Hong Kong are more educated and have more money than those who stayed.
- D) A fear for the future of Hong Kong and no other reason caused the move to Vancouver.
- E) Hong Kong media reports about a high quality of life in Vancouver and relatives in Canada were not major factors in the decision for people to move.

Answer: B

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 01. Apply abstract learning to realistic situations

Objective: 02.07 Identify the three conditions for causality

13) A theory that seeks to explain how the newly industrializing countries (NICs) of East Asia (e.g., Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore) were able to rapidly industrialize and gain a major position in world markets between the 1960s and the 1990s is operating at which level?

- A) micro
- B) meso
- C) macro
- D) mini
- E) maxi

Answer: C

Diff: 4 Page Ref: 32

Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 03. Display ability to extend learning to new situations

Objective: 02.05 Understand micro-, meso-, & macro-levels

14) Which of the following theoretical statements has the narrowest range?

- A) People who experience unclear expectations will feel tension and stress.
- B) College students who successfully complete a social research methods course develop critical reasoning skills that are superior to most other college students.
- C) Canadian females under the age of 30 who exercise twice a week have a life expectancy 2-3 years longer than those who do not.
- D) Professional baseball athletes in Japan who play first base and chew tobacco have the coordination and speed to tag more runners out than those who do not chew.

Answer: D

Diff: 7 Page Ref: 32

Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 03. Display ability to extend learning to new situations

Objective: 02.01 Describe concepts in theory & theoretical frameworks

15) Jeffrey Haydu developed a theory of social movement development. The theory states that a movement develops like a child matures and goes through developmental stages. Each stage is like a step in a set of stairs; it must be passed before the movement is able to advance to the next stage in the sequence of development steps. He says this pattern of development explains how the women's movement and civil rights movement changed. He is using what type of explanation?

- A) structural
- B) interpretative
- C) causal

Answer: A

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 03. Display ability to extend learning to new situations

Objective: 02.08 Describe various methods of explanation

16) Which is the range of the following statement?

Persons who have grown up with one parent and a much older sibling of the opposite sex of the parent residing at home, tend to treat the older sibling as a parent figure.

- A) theoretical framework
- B) theory on a topic
- C) middle-range theory
- D) empirical generalization

Answer: D

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 01. Apply abstract learning to realistic situations

Objective: 02.01 Describe concepts in theory & theoretical frameworks

17) You pick up an article and read the following: In a dating relationship, each person attempts to gain social approval and acceptance. If one person makes an elaborate entry and presents an expensive gift to obtain more approval, the other person feels a need to maintain balance in the relationship. A repayment through an offer of something of value (e.g., expressions of affection, sexual relations, etc.) is expected. Failure to repay the social debt may create embarrassment or place the receiver of the gift in a position of dependence. Which theoretical framework is the author using?

- A) structural functional
- B) conflict
- C) symbolic interactionism
- D) exchange theory

Answer: D

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 03. Display ability to extend learning to new situations

Objective: 02.01 Describe concepts in theory & theoretical frameworks

18) Skip Jones created a micro-level theory about working in a factory. Which of the following would be most likely?

- A) How an increased division of labor of society with industrialization gave rise to factories as the place where many people work.
- B) How urbanization increased the growth of the factory as a form of social organization over the past hundred years.
- C) How greater conflict between the managerial and non-managerial levels in a corporation increased the pace of factory work.
- D) How the development of robots and new computer-related production technology has produced a corresponding increase in the surveillance of employee behavior in factories.
- E) How the face-to-face interaction among workers in small work teams in a factory informally enforce certain company rules.

Answer: E

Diff: 3 Page Ref: 32

Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 03. Display ability to extend learning to new situations

Objective: 02.05 Understand micro, meso & macro levels

19) Which general theoretical framework in sociology is most likely to state the following: In selecting a marriage partner, a man is likely to seriously consider potential mates who allow him to maintain power and control in the relationship. He will seek to maintain authority over a woman's wealth, earnings, sexual favors, and social status, especially in a society where patriarchy prevails as an ideology and justifies his actions in the larger society.

- A) exchange theory

- B) symbolic interactionism
- C) structural functional theory
- D) conflict theory

Answer: D

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 03. Display ability to extend learning to new situations

Objective: 02.01 Describe concepts in theory & theoretical frameworks

20) Which of the three major approaches to social science holds that human life is based less on objective reality than on the ideas, beliefs, and perceptions people hold about reality?

- A) positivism
- B) interpretative social science
- C) critical social science

Answer: C

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Topic: The Three Major Approaches to Social Science

Skill: 07. Make distinctions among related ideas/processes

Objective: 02.09 Discuss the three major approaches to soc. science

21) Dr. Smith said that social science cannot be value-neutral, and a good study requires putting results into action to help people change society. Dr. Smith uses which approach to social science?

- A) positivism
- B) interpretative social science
- C) critical social science

Answer: C

Diff: 6 Page Ref: 46

Topic: The Three Major Approaches to Social Science

Skill: 01. Apply abstract learning to realistic situations

Objective: 02.09 Discuss the three major approaches to soc. science

22) The interpretative social science approach is described as ideographic and inductive in its theory and method. What does this mean?

- A) It tries to discover a system of causal laws that determines patterns of human behavior.
- B) It begins with abstract ideas, laws, or propositions. These are used to deduce logically or infer specific hypotheses that researchers test against the facts of observable empirical reality.
- C) It focuses on descriptions of specific people and events in a particular situation. It also starts with direct observations of the details in a situation and later develops somewhat more abstract generalizations if appropriate.

- D) A and B
- E) A and C

Answer: C

Diff: 7 Page Ref: 46

Topic: The Three Major Approaches to Social Science

Skill: 10. Utilize both inductive & deductive approaches

Objective: 02.10 Distinguish between nomothetic & idiographic

23) Positivism seeks universal laws, and positivist researchers attempt to create law-like generalizations to explain events in the social world. This focus on laws in explanation is called

- A) nomothetic.
- B) ideographic.
- C) inductive.
- D) deductive.
- E) dialectic.

Answer: A

Diff: 4 Page Ref: 46

Topic: The Three Major Approaches to Social Science

Skill: 04. Express familiarity with the range of techniques/methods

Objective: 02.10 Distinguish between nomothetic & idiographic

24) Some researchers say, put theory into practice, and use the results of the practice to reformulate theory such that research encourages action in which people learn how to change the world. This idea is called

- A) replication.
- B) *verstehen*.
- C) *praxis*.
- D) a paradigm.
- E) none of the above

Answer: C

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Topic: The Three Major Approaches to Social Science

Skill: 07. Make distinctions among related ideas/processes

Objective: 02.09 Discuss the three major approaches to soc. science

25) *Verstehen* is a term used by which basic approach to social science?

- A) positivist
- B) interpretative
- C) critical

Answer: B

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Topic: The Three Major Approaches to Social Science

Skill: 11. Appreciate differences among 3 approaches to soc science

Objective: 02.09 Discuss the three major approaches to soc. science

26) Value-free research is emphasized by which of the three approaches to social science?

- A) positivist
- B) interpretative
- C) critical

Answer: A

Diff: 4 Page Ref: 46

Topic: The Three Major Approaches to Social Science

Skill: 11. Appreciate differences among 3 approaches to soc science

Objective: 02.09 Discuss the three major approaches to soc. science

27) *Praxis* is used by which of the three major approaches to social science?

- A) positivist
- B) interpretative
- C) critical

Answer: C

Diff: 4 Page Ref: 46

Topic: The Three Major Approaches to Social Science

Skill: 11. Appreciate differences among 3 approaches to soc science

Objective: 02.09 Discuss the three major approaches to soc. science

28) Which situations would a researcher be most likely to use grounded theory?

- A) qualitative, inductive field research that builds on empirical generalizations
- B) quantitative experimental research that is explanatory and tests theory
- C) a quantitative and deductive study that is nomothetic.
- D) an existing statistics study that works from a abstract theory down to testable hypotheses

Answer: A

Diff: 5 Page Ref: 32

Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 10. Utilize both inductive & deductive approaches

Objective: 02.08 Describe various methods of explanation

29) Which of the following is at the most abstract, general level that is only loosely used when conducting an empirical research study?

- A) scientific paradigm
- B) formal theory
- C) middle-range theory
- D) empirical generalization

Answer: A

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Topic: The Parts of Theory

Skill: 07. Make distinctions among related ideas/processes

Objective: 02.04 Describe how theory & research complement one another

30) The following theoretical proposition is an expression of which of the following: *The more frequently and intensely a family engages in loving, close leisure activities together as a family unit, the less likely the children will develop distant, alienated feelings toward their parents.*

A) a negative causal relationship

B) a positive causal relationship

C) a functional theory

D) a scientific paradigm

Answer: A

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 09. Be able to understand a simple causal relations/diagrams

Objective: 02.03 Understand causality & causal relationships

2.3 Key Terms Vocabulary Questions

1) association

Answer: A co-occurrence of two events, factors, characteristics, or activities, such that when one happens, the other one is likely to occur as well. Many statistics measure this.

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.03 Understand causality & causal relationships

2) assumption

Answer: Parts of social theories that are not tested, but act as starting points or basic beliefs about the world. They are necessary to make other theoretical statements and build social theory.

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Topic: The Parts of Theory

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.01 Describe concepts in theory & theoretical frameworks

3) blame analysis

Answer: A counterfeit argument presented as if it were a theoretical explanation. In it pointing to a responsible party for an unfavorable situation is substituted for presenting a causal explanation.

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Topic: What Is Social Theory?

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.03 Understand causality & causal relationships

4) causal explanation

Answer: A statement in social theory about why events occur that is expressed in terms of causes and effects. They correspond to associations in the empirical world.

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 09. Be able to understand a simple causal relations/diagrams

Objective: 02.03 Understand causality & causal relationships

5) classification

Answer: Complex, multi-dimensional concepts that have subtypes. They are parts of social theories between one, simple concept and a full theoretical explanation.

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Topic: The Parts of Theory

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.01 Describe concepts in theory & theoretical frameworks

6) concept cluster

Answer: A collection of interrelated ideas that share common assumptions, belong to the same larger social theory, and refer to one another.

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Topic: The Parts of Theory

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.01 Describe concepts in theory & theoretical frameworks

7) deductive approach

Answer: An approach to inquiry or social theory in which one begins with abstract ideas and principles, then works toward concrete, empirical details to test the ideas.

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.06 Distinguish inductive & deductive theory building

8) empirical generalization

Answer: A quasi-theoretical statement that summarizes findings or empirical regularities. It uses few if any abstract concepts and only makes a statement about a recurring pattern that researchers observe.

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.02 Distinguish explanations, prediction, & understanding

9) functional theory

Answer: A type of social theory based on biological analogies, in which the social world or its parts are seen as systems, with its parts serving the needs of the system.

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.01 Describe concepts in theory & theoretical frameworks

10) grounded theory

Answer: Social theory that is rooted in observations of specific, concrete empirical details.

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.08 Describe various methods of explanation

11) ideal type

Answer: A pure model about an ideal, process, social relationship, or event. One develops it to think more clearly and systematically. It is used both as a method of qualitative data analysis and in social theory building.

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Topic: The Parts of Theory

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.01 Describe concepts in theory & theoretical frameworks

12) idiographic

Answer: An approach that focuses on creating detailed descriptions of specific events in particular time periods and settings. It rarely goes beyond empirical generalizations to abstract to social theory or causal laws.

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Topic: The Three Major Approaches to Social Science

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.10 Distinguish between nomothetic & idiographic

13) inductive approach

Answer: An approach to inquiry or social theory in which one begins with concrete empirical details, then works toward abstract ideas or general principles.

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.06 Distinguish inductive & deductive theory building

14) macro-level theory

Answer: Social theories and explanations about more abstract, large-scale, and broad-scope aspects of social reality, such as social change in major institutions in a whole nation across decades.

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.05 Understand micro, meso & macro levels

15) meso-level theory

Answer: Social theories and explanations about more middle-level of social reality between a broad and narrow scope, such as the development and operation of social organizations, communities, or social movements over a five-year period.

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.05 Understand micro, meso & macro levels

16) micro-level theory

Answer: Social theories and explanations about the concrete, small-scale, and narrow level of reality, such as face-to-face interaction in small groups over a two-month period of time.

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.05 Understand micro, meso & macro levels

17) negative relationship

Answer: An association between two variables such that as values on one variable increase, values on the other variable fall or decrease.

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.03 Understand causality & causal relationships

18) nomothetic

Answer: An approach based on laws or one that operates according to a system of laws.

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Topic: The Three Major Approaches to Social Science

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.10 Distinguish between nomothetic & idiographic

19) paradigm

Answer: A general organizing framework for social theory and empirical research. It includes basic assumptions, major questions to be answered, models of good research practice and theory, and methods for finding answers to questions.

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Topic: The Three Major Approaches to Social Science

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.09 Discuss the three major approaches to soc. science

20) positive relationship

Answer: An association between two variables such that as values on one variable increase, values on the other variable rise or increase.

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.03 Understand causality & causal relationships

21) *praxis*

Answer: An idea in critical social science that social theory and everyday practice interact or work together, mutually affecting one another. This interaction can promote social change.

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Topic: The Three Major Approaches to Social Science

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.04 Describe how theory & research complement one another

22) prediction

Answer: A statement about something that is likely to occur in the future.

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Topic: The Aspects of Theory

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.02 Distinguish explanations, prediction, & understanding

23) proposition

Answer: A basic statement in social theory that two ideas or variables are related to one another. It can be true or false, conditional, and/or causal.

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Topic: The Parts of Theory

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.01 Describe concepts in theory & theoretical frameworks

24) replication

Answer: The principle that researchers must be able to repeat scientific findings in multiple studies to have a high level of confidence that the findings are true.

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Topic: The Three Major Approaches to Social Science

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 02.04 Describe how theory & research complement one another

25) *verstehen*

Answer: A German word that translates as understanding, specifically it means an empathic understanding of another's worldview and is used in an interpretative approach to social science.

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Topic: The Three Major Approaches to Social Science

Skill: 50. Ability to Define Key Terms

Objective: 01.08 Know various ways/methods of soc. science explanation