

Chapter 2 Research Methods

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The scientific method:

- a. involves a non-systematic approach to investigation.
- b. is used in investigation but not the evaluation of research results.
- c. is used by scientists in communication with each other about research findings.
- d. all of the above

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.1 Understand how researchers use the scientific method to study child development

Topic: Scientific Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

2. A theory is a:

- a. broad set of statements describing the relationship between a phenomenon and the factors assumed to affect it.
- b. predicted relationship between a phenomenon and a factor believed to affect it that is supported by a good deal of scientific evidence.
- c. predicted relationship between a phenomenon and a factor believed to affect it that is not yet supported by a great deal of scientific evidence.
- d. system of rules that directs how scientists conduct research.

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 2.1 Understand how researchers use the scientific method to study child development

Topic: The Role of Theory

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

3. The primary difference between a law and a hypothesis is that a law:

- a. is embedded in a theory while a hypothesis is not.
- b. is supported by a good deal of data while a hypothesis is not.
- c. involves a predicted relationship while a hypothesis does not.
- d. can be stated in mathematical terms while a hypothesis cannot.

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.1 Understand how researchers use the scientific method to study child development

Topic: The Role of Theory

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Medium

4. The _____ of reinforcement is well supported by research.

- a. theory
- b. hypothesis
- c. principle
- d. fallacy

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.1 Understand how researchers use the scientific method to study child development

Topic: The Role of Theory

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

5. A hypothesis is a predicted relationship between a phenomenon and a factor assumed to affect it that is:
- supported by a great deal of scientific evidence.
 - usually formulated to test a researcher's notions about factors that may be related to one another.
 - agreed upon by everyone.
 - not tested in experimental investigations.

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.1 Understand how researchers use the scientific method to study child development

Topic: The Role of Theory

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Medium

6. The two important roles of theories are to:
- organize research findings and guide new research.
 - provide predictions to be tested in experiments and to organize research findings.
 - guide new research and guide the formulation of new research designs.
 - provide predictions to be tested in experiments and guide the formulation of new research designs.

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 2.1 Understand how researchers use the scientific method to study child development

Topic: The Role of Theory

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

7. Freud's model of human development is an example of a:
- hypothesis.
 - principle.
 - law.
 - theory.

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.1 Understand how researchers use the scientific method to study child development

Topic: The Role of Theory

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Medium

8. Isabella is raising her child by choosing not to spank her, but by being nurturing and supportive, yet firm in her discipline. This is an example of following:

- theory
- fallacy
- hypothesis
- principle

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.1 Understand how researchers use the scientific method to study child development

Topic: The Role of Theory

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Medium

9. A specific statement about a phenomenon that is well supported by research evidence is a:
- theory.
 - principle.
 - hypothesis.
 - postulate.

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.1 Understand how researchers use the scientific method to study child development

Topic: The Role of Theory

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

10. Dr. X, a developmental psychologist and researcher, wants to study what technical aids are needed by children with special needs in order to facilitate their learning. What is needed to conduct this research?

- a. subjective behaviours observation checklists
- b. quantifiable factors
- c. both of these alternatives are correct
- d. none of the above alternatives are correct

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.1 Understand how researchers use the scientific method to study child development

Topic: Objectivity and Measurement

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Medium

11. According to the scientific research principle of _____, the procedures and subject matter of investigations should be formulated so that they could be investigated in the same manner by everyone.

- a. measurement
- b. objectivity
- c. empiricism
- d. hypothesis-testing

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.1 Understand how researchers use the scientific method to study child development

Topic: Objectivity and Measurement

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Medium

12. In order for the study of child development to be objective it must:

- a. involve experimentation.
- b. focus on measurable, observable, quantifiable behaviours.
- c. arise from a theoretical formulation.
- d. eventually involve a biological explanation.

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.1 Understand how researchers use the scientific method to study child development

Topic: Objectivity and Measurement

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

13. An important characteristic of scientific objectivity is that:

- a. the events or behaviours studied must be measurable.
- b. behaviours are not only described, but explained.
- c. the meaning of the data can be determined without resorting to a theory.
- d. the data are derived from true experimentation.

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 2.1 Understand how researchers use the scientific method to study child development

Topic: Objectivity and Measurement

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Medium

14. Another important characteristic of scientific objectivity is that:
- a. the meaning of the data can be determined without resorting to a theory.
 - b. behaviours are not only described, but explained.
 - c. everything in the research study must be quantifiable.
 - d. the data are derived from true experimentation.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.1 Understand how researchers use the scientific method to study child development

Topic: Objectivity and Measurement

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

15. An important characteristic of scientific objectivity is that:
- a. behaviours are not only described, but explained.
 - b. the focus should be on observable behaviour.
 - c. the meaning of the data can be determined without resorting to a theory.
 - d. the data are derived from true experimentation.

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.1 Understand how researchers use the scientific method to study child development

Topic: Objectivity and Measurement

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

16. Which of the following does NOT need to be emphasized in order to achieve objectivity in research?
- a. The focus should be on observable behaviour.
 - b. The behaviour must be measurable.
 - c. The factors in the study must be quantifiable.
 - d. The behaviour should be covert.

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.1 Understand how researchers use the scientific method to study child development

Topic: Objectivity and Measurement

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

17. Researchers can determine which behaviours a particular baby shows through:
- a. natural-setting observations.
 - b. laboratory-setting observations.
 - c. interviews of those knowledgeable about the baby's behaviour.
 - d. all of the above

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.1 Understand how researchers use the scientific method to study child development

Topic: Objectivity and Measurement

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

18. Amy is being subjected to The Strange Situation (attachment-based situation where she is observed through a glass mirror and is separated from her mother to then be reunited with her again). It is based on behaviours that are observed through:
- a. natural-setting observations.
 - b. laboratory-setting observations.
 - c. interviews of those knowledgeable about the baby's behaviour.
 - d. all of the above

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.1 Understand how researchers use the scientific method to study child development

Topic: Objectivity and Measurement

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

19. Research in psychology generally falls into one of three categories. Which of the following is NOT one of these categories?

- a. descriptive
- b. correlational
- c. experimental
- d. laboratory-based

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Types of Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

20. A researcher wants to examine the incidence of violent behaviours as the outside temperature rises by obtaining the number of criminal arrests through the local police department for the days that are hotter than 95 degrees outside. Which category would this research fall into?

- a. descriptive
- b. correlational
- c. experimental
- d. laboratory-based

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Types of Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

21. An observational study in which the researchers make no effort to determine systematic relationships among variables is called a(n):

- a. correlational study.
- b. descriptive study.
- c. interview study.
- d. survey.

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Descriptive Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

22. Gesell's systematic investigations of normal child development are an example of which category of research?

- a. experimental
- b. correlational
- c. idiographic
- d. descriptive

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Descriptive Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

23. The baby biography is an example of _____ research.

- a. idiographic
- b. descriptive
- c. correlational
- d. experimental

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Descriptive Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Medium

24. Although many people enjoy watching children develop, what separates naturalistic observation from more casual observation is an emphasis on:

- a. objectivity.
- b. the observations being done in natural settings.
- c. the observations are meant to answer certain research questions about children.
- d. all of the above

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Descriptive Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

25. Because expectations can influence what scientists observe and record, researchers who use observational methods _____.

- a. carefully define what counts of an instance of the behaviour they wish to study
- b. structure the observation to control what occurs
- c. randomly assign the participants
- d. none of the above

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Descriptive Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Medium

26. A(n) _____ identifies and carefully defines what counts of an instance of behaviours under study.

- a. microanalysis
- b. observational protocol
- c. structured observation
- d. microgenetic design

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Descriptive Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Medium

27. Which of the following is a drawback of naturalistic observation?

- a. it is difficult to carefully define what counts of an instance of the behaviour
- b. correlation coefficients cannot be used
- c. observer influences
- d. it does not use experimental methods

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Descriptive Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Medium

28. Observer influences are best minimized by:

- a. using an observational protocol.
- b. ensuring that raters agree on what counts of an instance of a behaviour.
- c. randomly assigning the participants.
- d. making the observers as inconspicuous as possible.

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Descriptive Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Medium

29. When behaviours that researchers wish to observe naturalistically do not occur frequently or consistently, they can:

- a. use a structured observation.
- b. use an observational protocol.
- c. randomly assign the participants.
- d. make the observers as inconspicuous as possible.

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Descriptive Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Medium

30. Structured observations:

- a. are used when researchers wish to naturalistically observe behaviours that do not occur frequently or consistently.
- b. are used to make it easier to compare one child's behaviour to that of another.
- c. can take place in a laboratory setting.
- d. all of the above

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Descriptive Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

31. Catherine wants to study social skills development in children. In her research, she asks each participant the same questions, in the same order. What type of research is she most likely conducting?

- a. observational method
- b. interview method
- c. clinical method

d. none of the above alternatives are correct

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Descriptive Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

32. The Strange Situation, which assesses mother-infant interaction using a standardized setting and script of behaviours, is an example of _____.

a. a correlational design

b. a structured observation

c. an experimental design

d. a microgenetic design

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Descriptive Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

33. Interview methods are a type of:

a. case study.

b. naturalistic observation.

c. descriptive method.

d. correlational design.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Descriptive Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

34. A(n) _____ interview involves children responding freely and in a conversational way on a given topic.

a. open-ended

b. structured

c. quantitative

d. unconstrained

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Descriptive Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Medium

35. One drawback of interview methods is that they may not:

a. be used with children, parents and teachers.

b. be used to compare one child's behaviour to that of another.

c. be used in a laboratory setting.

d. always accurately reflect actual behaviour.

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Descriptive Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

36. Case studies are often used:

- a. instead of psychophysiological methods.
- b. to make it easier to compare one child's behaviour to that of another.
- c. when a child displays a rare disorder.
- d. in a laboratory setting.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Descriptive Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

37. "Genie" was kept isolated by her parents and never spoken to until she was 13 years old. A problem with generalizing from her experiences to draw conclusions about the language skills of children in general is that:

- a. her situation was more of a correlational than experimental design.
- b. researchers only discovered Genie when she was 13, well after her language skills should have developed.
- c. it is difficult to create an observational protocol that would suit her case.
- d. she was not only deprived of language, but also experienced an extremely harsh and unusual childhood.

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Descriptive Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Hard

38. Jake has the symptoms characteristic of paranoid-type schizophrenia, but claims that he does not respond to any of the conventional treatments. Dr. What spent approximately 10 hours a week with Jake for the past 6 months and concluded that Jake is better off on a new form of medication used to treat severe depression than he was on any antipsychotic medications he had typically been prescribed. Thanks to Dr. What's _____ of Jake, Jake is now taking a medication that works for him.

- a. microgenetic study
- b. case study
- c. comparative research
- d. cross-sectional study

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Descriptive Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Medium

39. Which of the following statements regarding correlation coefficients is FALSE?

- a. A correlation of .75 indicates a stronger association than a correlation of .50.
- b. A correlation of $-.75$ indicates a stronger association than a correlation of .50.
- c. A correlation of $-.75$ indicates a stronger association than a correlation of $-.50$.
- d. A correlation of .75 indicates a stronger association than a correlation of $-.75$.

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Correlational Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

40. A news bulletin reports that there is more cancer in women who live in the most northern parts of the country. Which of the following correlation coefficients best explains this relationship?

- a. A correlation of $-.28$
- b. A correlation of $.28$
- c. A correlation of $-.75$
- d. A correlation of $.75$

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Correlational Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

41. A _____ is any factor that can take on different values along a dimension.

- a. variable
- b. correlation
- c. hypothesis
- d. coefficient

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Correlational Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

42. How does correlational research differ from descriptive research?

- a. Descriptive research takes place in non-laboratory settings whereas correlational research is laboratory based.
- b. Descriptive research always involves observation whereas correlational research always involves questionnaires or surveys.
- c. In correlational research, an attempt is made to describe relationships between variables while no such attempt is made in descriptive research.
- d. Correlational research involves random assignment to different conditions while descriptive research involves only one group.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Correlational Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Medium

43. A researcher is interested in the impact of sugar consumption on activity level. She records the amount of sugar consumed by a group of fifth graders and relates it to teacher ratings of the children's activity level. This study is BEST described as:

- a. experimental.
- b. correlational.
- c. comparative.
- d. cross-sequential.

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Correlational Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

44. A researcher interested in children's moral development is curious about whether children who come from large, extended families are more compassionate than children with only one sibling. Which research method would be most effective in assessing the relationship between children's empathy and family size?

- a. correlational research
- b. experimental research
- c. descriptive research
- d. ethological research

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Correlational Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Medium

45. Studies suggest that the greater the amount of alcohol consumed during pregnancy the greater the risk of birth defects. The relationship between alcohol consumption and birth defects is BEST described as:

- a. a zero correlation.
- b. a negative correlation.
- c. a positive correlation.
- d. an impossible event.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Correlational Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

46. Recent evidence suggests that children with younger fathers are at increased risk for developing at least one form of Alzheimer's disease. If the chance of having Alzheimer's increases as the age of the father decreases, the relationship between age of father and likelihood of having Alzheimer's disease is described as:

- a. a positive correlation.
- b. a negative correlation.
- c. cause-effect.
- d. transactional.

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Correlational Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

47. If a researcher discovers that parental use of physical punishment is positively correlated with children's aggression, we would conclude that:

- a. parents who use greater amounts of physical punishment tend to have aggressive children.
- b. use of physical punishment causes increases in aggression among children.
- c. parents who employ physical punishment tend to have less aggressive children.
- d. children who do not experience physical punishment tend to show higher amounts of aggression.

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Correlational Research

Type: Conceptual
Difficulty: Medium

48. A researcher interested in the effects of daycare on development discovers that the number of hours spent in group day care settings prior to entering school and academic performance in first grade have a correlation coefficient of 0.08. The conclusion we could draw from this finding is that:

- a. children who spend a great deal of time in daycare before age 5 do worse in school than children who spend less time in daycare.
- b. children who spend a great deal of time in daycare before age 5 tend to do better in school than those with less daycare experience.
- c. daycare experience tends to give children a head start in managing the social demands of school.
- d. there is no important relationship between time spent in day care as a young child and academic performance in first grade.

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Correlational Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

49. Imagine a researcher discovers a -0.98 correlation between the number of hours children play computer games per week and their popularity as rated by classmates. This statistic would allow us to make which of the following conclusions?

- a. Popular children tend to play a lot of computer games.
- b. Children who play a lot of computer games do not develop the social skills necessary to make friends.
- c. There is no relationship between the amount of time a child spends playing computer games and children's popularity.
- d. Children who play a lot of computer games tend to be unpopular.

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Correlational Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Medium

50. If you conducted a study and found a positive correlation between amount of oat bran in the diet and cholesterol level, you could conclude that:

- a. eating oat bran lowers cholesterol.
- b. having low cholesterol causes people to eat oat bran.
- c. amount of oat bran in the diet and cholesterol level are related to each other.
- d. eating oat bran has nothing to do with cholesterol level.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Correlational Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

51. A graphic illustration of a correlation between two variables is known as a:

- a. correlation coefficient.
- b. dot plot.
- c. histogram.
- d. scatter diagram.

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Correlational Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

52. Imagine that a study of the effects of Sesame Street on children's cognitive development reveals a correlation coefficient of +0.78 between the number of hours of Sesame Street viewed each week and children's reading level. Based on this evidence, which of the following conclusions may be true?

- a. Viewing Sesame Street leads to better reading skills.
- b. Children with better reading skills find Sesame Street to be more interesting so they watch it more often.
- c. Better educated parents encourage their children both to watch Sesame Street and to read for pleasure.
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Correlational Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

53. The only way to determine whether two variables are causally related is to conduct a(n):

- a. correlational study.
- b. descriptive study.
- c. experiment.
- d. laboratory study.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Correlational Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

54. What is one difference between correlational and experimental research?

- a. Correlational research rarely involves observational methods.
- b. In an experiment, the researcher systematically manipulates one variable and measures the impact on another.
- c. Correlational research allows the researcher to draw conclusions about cause-effect relationships.
- d. Statistics are used to indicate correlations but are not used to measure differences found among experimental conditions.

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Experimental Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Medium

55. What is one difference between correlational and experimental research?

- a. Correlational research rarely involves observational methods.
- b. Correlational research cannot be used to determine causality.
- c. Correlational research allows the researcher to draw conclusions about cause-effect relationships.
- d. Statistics are used to indicate correlations but are not used to measure differences found among experimental conditions.

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Correlational Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

56. The variable that is systematically manipulated in an experiment is known as the:

- a. dependent variable.
- b. experimental variable.
- c. independent variable.
- d. correlation coefficient.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Experimental Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

57. An aspect of behaviour on which an experimental manipulation is predicted to have an effect is known as the:

- a. dependent variable.
- b. independent variable.
- c. continuous variable.
- d. predicted variable.

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Experimental Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

58. In order to examine whether infants respond differently to attractive and unattractive faces, Judith Langlois and her colleagues measured the social responses of 12-month-old infants interacting with a stranger wearing either an attractive or an unattractive mask. What is the dependent variable in this study?

- a. the attractive or unattractive masks
- b. the social responses
- c. the infants
- d. only the unattractive masks

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Experimental Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Medium

59. In an effort to assess the impact of collaboration on learning, a researcher assigns one group of seventh-graders to work with a partner in designing and conducting a science experiment and another group to do the same assignment alone. The researcher then evaluates the quality of the experiments and interviews the children about the scientific concepts they were asked to test. What was the independent variable in this study?

- a. the answers the students gave during the interview
- b. whether the children worked alone or with a partner
- c. the quality of the experiment
- d. grade level of the children

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Experimental Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

60. In an effort to determine infant visual preferences, Robert Fantz presented infants with different patterns such as a bull's eye, stripes, and a face. He then measured how long babies of different ages looked at each pattern. What is the dependent variable in this study?

- a. the ages of the infants
- b. the different patterned stimuli
- c. the length of time the babies looked at each pattern
- d. the face stimuli

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Experimental Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

61. MacFarlane (1975) tested how well newborns could smell by placing a breast pad from each baby's mother next to its cheek and the breast pad of another baby's mother next to the baby's other cheek. MacFarlane then measured which direction the babies turned most frequently. What was the independent variable in this study?

- a. whether the breast pad belonged to the baby's mother or another baby's mother
- b. the direction the baby turned
- c. the infants' ages
- d. whether the infants could smell

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Experimental Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

62. Researchers interested in the effects of Sesame Street on children's reading level randomly assign a number of children to one of four groups: one group is required to watch 2 hours of Sesame Street each week, a second group watches 4 hours, a third group watches 8 hours, and a fourth group watches 10 hours. After 6 months, the researchers re-administer a reading test to all children and compare the scores of the children in the different groups. What is the independent variable in this study?

- a. the children
- b. the amount of Sesame Street the children viewed
- c. children's performance on the reading test
- d. the level of attention the children paid to Sesame Street while they watched it

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Experimental Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Medium

63. Researchers interested in the effects of Sesame Street on children's reading level randomly assign a number of children to one of four groups: one group is required to watch 2 hours of Sesame Street each week, a second group watches 4 hours, a third group watches 8 hours, and a fourth group watches 10 hours. After 6 months, the researchers re-administered a reading test to all children and compare the scores of the children in the different groups. What is the dependent variable in this study?

- a. the children
- b. the amount of Sesame Street the children viewed
- c. children's performance on the reading test
- d. the level of attention the children paid to Sesame Street while they watched it

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children.

Topic: Experimental Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

64. Madeleine notices that her young infant Frank seems especially alert when allowed to face the Inuit rug hanging on the wall. Madeleine speculates that Frank likes the black and white geometric patterns of the rug and decides to test her hypothesis using a reversal-replication design. In the first phase, Madeleine sits with Frank such that he faces a blank white wall and observes that Frank seems more interested in his fingers than anything else. She then moves where Frank can face the polar bearskin rug and notices that Frank starts to wiggle, make cooing sounds, and widen his eyes as he looks toward it. Should Madeleine conclude that the changes in Frank's behaviour were really caused by the Inuit rug?

- a. Not yet. Madeleine should repeat the procedure to reduce the likelihood that the change in Frank's behaviour was merely coincidental.
- b. Yes. There is clearly a cause-effect relationship between Frank's behaviour and what he is looking at.
- c. No. It is inappropriate to infer a causal relationship with a sample size of one baby.
- d. No. It is inappropriate to infer a causal relationship from a correlational study.

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children.

Topic: Experimental Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Medium

65. Experimental research can be conducted in:

- a. a laboratory
- b. a child's home
- c. a playground
- d. all of the above

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children.

Topic: Experimental Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

66. To have confidence that an experiment is scientifically sound, many procedural factors must be considered. Which is NOT one of these factors?

- a. how participants are selected and assigned to groups
- b. under what conditions the data are gathered
- c. ensuring that the experiment takes place in a laboratory, rather than a field, setting
- d. the statistical tests that are conducted

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Experimental Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

67. In experimental research:

- a. there can be two dependent variables and no independent variables.
- b. there can be multiple dependent and independent variables.
- c. there can only ever be one dependent variable and one independent variable.
- d. only one hypothesis can be tested at a time.

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Experimental Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Medium

68. The major caution with respect to experiments is:

- a. their limited generalizability.
- b. they do not render possible any valid causal conclusions.
- c. that they can only take place in laboratory settings.
- d. that they can only be used to examine a limited range of problems.

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Experimental Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

69. A major difference between an experimental design and a quasi-experimental design is that:

- a. the results of a true experiment are more generalizable.
- b. true experiments occur in a laboratory setting.
- c. quasi-experimental studies are a form of descriptive research.
- d. in quasi-experimental studies, the comparison groups are decided on the basis of an existing characteristic.

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children.

Topic: Experimental Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Medium

70. A major difference between an experimental design and a quasi-experimental design is that

- a. the results of a true experiment are more generalizable.
- b. true experiments occur in a laboratory setting.
- c. quasi-experimental studies do not allow for cause-effect conclusions.
- d. in quasi-experimental studies, only some of the participants are randomly assigned.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children.

Topic: Experimental Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Medium

71. _____ involves repeatedly studying the same participants over time.

- a. Longitudinal research
- b. Cross-sectional research
- c. Cohort research
- d. Correlational research

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process

Topic: Longitudinal Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

72. The longitudinal approach is best suited for investigations that explore:

- a. naturally-occurring behaviour.
- b. the effects of early life experiences.
- c. relationships among variables.
- d. attrition.

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process

Topic: Longitudinal Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

73. The longitudinal approach is best suited for investigations that explore:

- a. naturally-occurring behaviour.
- b. the stability of behaviour over time.
- c. relationships among variables.
- d. attrition.

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process

Topic: Longitudinal Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

74. The advantages of longitudinal studies include which of the following?

- a. Studies are inexpensive.
- b. Participants become increasingly practiced at the assessments used.
- c. It is possible to disentangle age and cohort effect.
- d. It allows the researcher to measure both change and stability over time.

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process

Topic: Longitudinal Research

Type: Factual
Difficulty: Easy

75. The longitudinal approach is particularly well-suited to answer which of the following research questions?

- a. Do shy children remain shy throughout life?
- b. Do boys take longer naps than girls?
- c. How do the conversations children have with their friends differ from the conversations they have with their teachers?
- d. To what extent is intelligence a general skill versus a collection of many different skills?

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process

Topic: Longitudinal Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

76. Longitudinal research:

- a. can be experimental.
- b. can be correlational.
- c. may study the effects of early experiences on later behaviour.
- d. all of the above

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process.

Topic: Longitudinal Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

77. The _____ design is most appropriate to use when assessing whether children diagnosed with a hyperactivity disorder remain unusually active into adolescence and adulthood.

- a. cross-sectional
- b. cross-sequential
- c. longitudinal
- d. case study

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process.

Topic: Longitudinal Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

78. A psychologist might examine census records to discover how many people moved away from a community in the previous two decades prior to beginning a longitudinal study. The psychologist is worried about the possibility of

- a. heavy expenses while conducting the study.
- b. obsolescence of test instruments.
- c. participant attrition.
- d. a practice effect.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process.

Topic: Longitudinal Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Medium

79. The research method in which participants of different ages are studied, simultaneously and at one point in time, to examine the effects of age on some aspect of behaviour is known as:

- a. cross-cultural research.
- b. cross-sequential design.
- c. cross-sectional design.
- d. cross-age design.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process

Topic: Cross-Sectional Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

80. Dr. George offers the participants of his study monetary incentives as they continue to participate in his research. He also draws one trip to Disneyland per year. What is he worried about?

- a. the instruments are outdated
- b. practice effect
- c. attrition
- d. none of the above alternatives is correct

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process

Topic: Longitudinal Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Medium

81. What is a disadvantage of cross-sectional research?

- a. It is impossible to study developmental differences.
- b. Participants become practiced in the measures used.
- c. High rates of participant attrition are common.
- d. It is not possible to determine the persistence of a trait.

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process

Topic: Cross-Sectional Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

82. A researcher interested in memory for events interviews an equal number of 6-, 8-, and 10-year-olds after a trip to the dentist. This study is an example of which research design?

- a. comparative
- b. life course
- c. cross-sectional

d. longitudinal

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process

Topic: Cross-Sectional Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

83. Which of the following is a disadvantage of the cross-sectional approach?

a. It is expensive.

b. Participants may become practiced if the same measures are used repeatedly.

c. It is often difficult to keep participants in the study.

d. The cohort effect.

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process

Topic: Cross-Sectional Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

84. Which is not a research design that allows investigators to compare children's behaviour at different ages?

a. cross-sectional approach

b. longitudinal approach

c. cross-sequential design

d. critical period design

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process

Topic: Studying Development

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

85. A cross-sequential design:

a. involves selecting a sample of people who lived through a major cultural event and using archival data to assess how the event affected their lives.

b. begins by studying groups of children of different ages simultaneously and then testing them again at least one more time in the future.

c. involves selecting a group of people of a single cohort, randomly assigning them to experimental conditions, then testing them again at least one time in the future.

d. requires sampling from more than one cultural community.

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process

Topic: Combining Longitudinal and Cross-Sectional Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Medium

86. The intensive study of a small number of children over a brief period of time is:

a. a cross-sectional study.

b. a cross-cultural study.

- c. a microgenetic study.
- d. a cross-sequential study.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process

Topic: Microgenetic Studies

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

87. Which of the following is NOT characteristic of a microgenetic study?

- a. a risk that repeated observations in a short period of time will cause changes in the behaviour under study
- b. comparisons of small groups of children of different ages at the same time
- c. repeated observations of a small group of children
- d. examination of a cognitive shift from one level of development to the next

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process

Topic: Microgenetic Studies

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Medium

88. As children get older, they are less likely to think about physical punishment when making moral decisions and more likely to be concerned with the reactions of significant people in their lives. A researcher making a careful study of this changed mode of thinking in a small group of children over a brief period of time is using a:

- a. microgenetic design.
- b. cross-sectional design.
- c. longitudinal design.
- d. experimental design.

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process

Topic: Microgenetic Studies

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

89. One of the major limitations of the microgenetic method is that:

- a. it may obscure the processes of change.
- b. it cannot be used to investigate clinical issues.
- c. it may be too expensive.
- d. it is difficult to generalize its findings.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process

Topic: Microgenetic Studies

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

90. One of the major limitations of the microgenetic method is that:

- a. it may obscure the processes of change.

- b. it cannot be used to investigate clinical issues.
- c. repeated assessment may lead to changes in the behaviour of interest.
- d. it is difficult to generalize its findings.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process

Topic: Microgenetic Studies

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

91. A psychologist observes that children in Canada frequently begin to experience bad dreams and talk about bad guys and monsters between the ages of 2 and 3 years. The BEST way to assess whether this is due to television-exposure or to a universal characteristic of toddlerhood would be to conduct a(n):
- a. experiment in a single culture.
 - b. longitudinal study.
 - c. cross-cultural study.
 - d. cross-sectional study.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.4 Understand the uses of cultural research, comparative research, and psychophysiological methods

Topic: Cultural Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

92. Children in industrialized societies tend to show remarkable changes in how they reason about the world around the same time that they begin school. The most effective and practical way to disentangle the effects of schooling from that of other developmental factors would be to:
- a. randomly assign children of a single culture to begin school at different ages.
 - b. conduct a correlational study that includes measures of cognitive development, school achievement, and age at which the child began school.
 - c. investigate the issue in different cultures where the age at which children begin school varies.
 - d. conduct idiographic research.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.4 Understand the uses of cultural research, comparative research, and psychophysiological methods

Topic: Cultural Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

93. In a study examining the question of whether culture affects changes in children's thinking when they enter school, culture would be:
- a. the dependent variable.
 - b. the independent variable.
 - c. the intervening variable.
 - d. none of the above

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.4 Understand the uses of cultural research, comparative research, and psychophysiological methods

Topic: Cultural Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

94. The use of culture as an independent variable is LEAST relevant to:

- a. cultural psychology
- b. cross-cultural psychology
- c. experiments
- d. cross-sectional research

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 2.4 Understand the uses of cultural research, comparative research, and psychophysiological methods

Topic: Cultural Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

95. Independent variables are MOST relevant to:

- a. descriptive studies
- b. case studies
- c. experiments
- d. cultural psychology

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.4 Understand the uses of cultural research, comparative research, and psychophysiological methods

Topic: Cultural Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

96. The BEST way to determine whether sibling rivalry is unique to humans would be to conduct a(n):

- a. cross-cultural study.
- b. comparative study with non-human primates.
- c. naturalistic study.
- d. cross-sequential study.

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 2.4 Understand the uses of cultural research, comparative research, and psychophysiological methods

Topic: Comparative Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

97. Comparative research is used by researchers to:

- a. assess the universality of human behaviour in different cultures.
- b. experimentally address questions that would be unethical to investigate with nonhuman species.
- c. study animal behaviour for clues to the evolutionary origins of similar human behaviours.
- d. study a single culture from the perspective of members of that culture, the goal being to identify the values and practices important to the culture.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.4 Understand the uses of cultural research, comparative research, and psychophysiological methods

Topic: Comparative Research

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

98. Psychophysiological methods are useful:

- a. for detecting built-in preferences for certain stimuli.
- b. in longitudinal but not cross-sectional research.
- c. for detecting the evolutionary origins of human behaviours.
- d. none of the above

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 2.4 Understand the uses of cultural research, comparative research, and psychophysiological methods

Topic: Psychophysiological Methods

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Hard

99. The collection of salivary cortisol in children living in foster homes is useful for:

- a. detecting whether or not these children be aggressive as adults.
- b. longitudinal research only.
- c. knowing if these children know how to tie their shoes.
- d. none of these alternatives are correct

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.4 Understand the uses of cultural research, comparative research, and psychophysiological methods

Topic: Psychophysiological Methods

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy

100. Neuroimaging techniques, such as functional magnetic resonance imaging, are used in:

- a. cross-cultural research.
- b. comparative research.
- c. psychophysiological research.
- d. microgenetic research.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 2.4 Understand the uses of cultural research, comparative research, and psychophysiological methods

Topic: Psychophysiological methods

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

101. Which of the following is a potential risk factor that researchers must consider before embarking on a research project involving children as participants?

- a. physical harm
- b. psychological harm
- c. violations of privacy
- d. all of these alternatives are correct

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.4 Understand the uses of cultural research, comparative research, and psychophysiological methods

Topic: Potential Risks

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

102. What rights are accorded to children who participate in psychological experiments?

- a. Children have the right to refuse to participate in the experiment.
- b. Children have the right to discontinue participation at any time.

- c. Children have the right to be told as much about the experimental procedures as is feasible and in terms they can understand.
- d. All of these alternatives are correct

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.4 Understand the uses of cultural research, comparative research, and psychophysiological methods

Topic: Safeguards

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy

103. Which of the following statements about the use of deception in research with children is consistent with ethical guidelines?

- a. Deception should never be used in research with children.
- b. Deception is acceptable only if the subjects are below age 5.
- c. Researchers who wish to use deception must pilot the experiment with adults first.
- d. If there is reason to believe that the children will be negatively affected by the deception, the researcher is obliged to provide some means to reduce those feelings at the end of the study.

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 2.4 Understand the uses of cultural research, comparative research, and psychophysiological methods

Topic: Safeguards

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Medium

Essay Questions

104. Define scientific objectivity and discuss three ways in which it is reflected in the methods and procedures used by psychologists.

Learning Objective: 2.1 Understand how researchers use the scientific method to study child development

Topic: Objectivity and Measurement

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Medium

105. A researcher is interested in whether the age at which an adolescent experiences puberty is related to drug use. Explain how the researcher could investigate this question using a correlational research design. Describe the results the researcher would obtain if he found a positive, negative, or zero correlation between the age of onset of puberty and drug use. How is the researcher limited in the kinds of conclusions he can draw from a correlational study?

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Correlational Research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Hard

106. A researcher wants to investigate the long-term effects of maternal drug-use while pregnant. What type of research should be used? Support your answer with facts about the design.

Learning Objective: 2.2 Compare and contrast the research methods commonly used to study children

Topic: Studying development

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Medium

107. Identify the major characteristics of longitudinal, cross-sectional, cross-sequential, and microgenetic designs. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each design?

Learning Objective: 2.3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of the four basic methods for studying child development as a process

Topic: Studying Development

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Medium

108. Compare and contrast cross-cultural, cultural, and comparative research approaches. What types of questions can be explored by each of these approaches?

Learning Objective: 2.4 Understand the uses of cultural research, comparative research, and psychophysiological methods

Topic: Other Research Tactics

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Medium

109. Imagine that you want to examine whether the children in the most northern regions of your country have the same intelligence potential as children living in urban areas. What type of research approach would you use and why (support your answer)?

Learning Objective: 2.4 Understand the uses of cultural research, comparative research, and psychophysiological methods

Topic: Cultural research

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Medium

110. Imagine that you are conducting a study on how children's self-concept affects learning. Your particular study requires that you interview children outside of their classroom, expose them to some failure experiences in order to diminish their self-esteem, and then measure their performance on a learning task. Discuss at least three safeguards you, as an ethical scientist, should take when conducting this study.

Learning Objective: 2.5 Explain the ethical guidelines for human research that developmental researchers must follow

Topic: Safeguards

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Hard