

## **Chapter 2 Critical Thinking in Cross-Cultural Psychology**

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This test bank contains several types of questions:

1. Multiple-choice items related to key terms (definitions)
2. Multiple-choice items related to general comprehension and application of knowledge
3. True-False items
4. Short-answer items
5. Essay questions

There are approximately 50 questions from which to select for each chapter. In addition, a short quiz has been created for every chapter, which may be utilized for classroom exams or practice tests.

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### **2.1. Multiple choice questions (key terms)**

1. The propensity to resolve discrepancies between pre-existing schemas and new information in the direction of assimilation rather than accommodation, even at the expense of distorting the information itself is called:
  - a. post-hoc error
  - b. accommodation error
  - c. bidirectional causation
  - d. Barnum effect
  - e. assimilation bias

Answer: e

2. Any variable that can be placed into either of two discrete and mutually exclusive categories is called:
  - a. continuous
  - b. dependent
  - c. dichotomous
  - d. independent
  - e. uncertainty avoidance

Answer: c

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ is a logical error that because Event *B* follows Event *A*, then *B* must have been caused by *A*.
- a. self-fulfilling prophecy
  - b. dichotomous variable
  - c. the Barnum effect
  - d. the fundamental attribution error
  - e. the post hoc error

Answer: e

4. \_\_\_\_\_ is the act of thinking about thinking; engaging in a critical analysis and evaluation of the thinking process.
- a. post-hoc error
  - b. metathinking
  - c. bidirectional causation
  - d. Barnum effect
  - e. assimilation bias

Answer: b

5. The term for any generic description or interpretation about a particular individual that is true of practically all individuals or groups is known as a(n):
- a. the fundamental attribution error
  - b. standup comedy
  - c. ethnic joke
  - d. Barnum statement
  - e. post-hoc error

Answer: d

6. A phenomenon wherein people's attitudes, beliefs or assumptions about another person (or persons) can, with or without their intent, actually produce the very behaviors that they had initially expected to find is called:
- a. self-fulfilling prophecy
  - b. dichotomous variable
  - c. the continuous variable
  - d. the fundamental attribution error
  - e. the post hoc error

Answer: a

7. Any condition where the availability heuristic produces systematic errors in thinking or information processing, typically due to highly vivid (dramatic) although rare (extraordinary) events is called:
- a. Barnum effect
  - b. continuous variable
  - c. availability bias
  - d. post-hoc error
  - e. the fundamental attribution error

Answer: c

8. The \_\_\_\_\_ is a bias in attempting to determine the causes of people's behavior that involves overestimating the influence of their personality traits, while underestimating the influence of their particular situations.
- a. self-fulfilling prophecy
  - b. dichotomous variable
  - c. the Barnum effect
  - d. the fundamental attribution error
  - e. the post hoc error

Answer: d

9. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ is a strategy for problem solving that reduces complex information and time-consuming tasks to more simple, rapid, and efficient judgmental operations, particularly in reaching decisions under conditions of uncertainty.
- a. heuristic
  - b. continuous variable
  - c. availability bias
  - d. dichotomous variable
  - e. uncertainty avoidance

Answer: a

10. A cognitive strategy for quickly estimating the frequency, incidence, or probability of a given event based on the ease with which such instances are retrievable from memory is called:
- a. availability heuristic
  - b. post-hoc error
  - c. bidirectional causation
  - d. accommodation error
  - e. the fundamental attribution error

Answer: a

11. Any systematic error in attribution that derives from people's efforts to satisfy their own personal needs, such as the desire for approval by others, high self-esteem, power or prestige is called:
- a. intellectual hunger
  - b. paradoxical reasoning
  - c. parataxic thinking
  - d. motivational bias
  - e. post-hoc error

Answer: d

12. A kind of "magical thinking," frequently responsible for superstitious behaviors, in which events that occur close together in time are erroneously construed by a person to be causally linked is called:
- a. Barnum effect
  - b. parataxic reasoning

- c. dichotomous variable
- d. uncertainty avoidance
- e. self-fulfilling prophecy

Answer: b

13. What is the Representativeness heuristic?

- a. any generic, "one-size-fits-all" description or interpretation about a particular individual
- b. deliberate lying about self
- c. the logical error that because Event *B* follows Event *A*, then *B* must have been caused by *A*
- d. a systematic error in attribution that derives from people's efforts to satisfy their own personal needs, such as the desire for self-esteem, power or prestige
- e. a cognitive strategy for quickly estimating the probability that a given instance is a member of a particular category.

Answer: e

## 2.2. Multiple choice questions (comprehension and application)

1. Which of the following is an example of a Barnum statement?
  - a. The halftime show during the final game received more attention than the game itself
  - b. Sometimes female immigrants feel insecure.
  - c. The weather in New York was very humid this week
  - d. Iran has a resilient soccer team this year
  - e. Australian beaches are not very crowded this winter

Answer: b Section: The Barnum Effect

2. Which one of the following is an example of the Fundamental Attribution Error?
  - a. Russia has a high rate of violent crime because of the country's tough laws.
  - b. Russia has a high rate of violent crime due to poverty and cold weather.
  - c. Russia has a high rate of violent crime as a result of numerous factors.
  - d. Russia has a high rate of violent crime because Russians are violent.
  - e. Russia has a high rate of violent crime due to problems in their educational system.

Answer: d Section: The Fundamental Attribution Error

3. Which of the following statements most accurately describes the Belief Perseverance Effect?
  - a. We defend our property no matter what is going on around us.
  - b. We defend our opinions in spite of arguments that challenge them.
  - c. We alter our opinions when we are facing strong arguments.
  - d. We defend our opinions only when we are scared.
  - e. We defend the opinions of others when we feel they are friendly.

Answer: b Section: Belief Perseverance Effect

4. Which of the following statements most accurately reflects the Evaluative Bias of Language?
  - a. People often use language to achieve own selfish goals

- b. People value their own language and refuse to learn others
- c. Descriptions become prescriptions
- d. Descriptions are made without serious thought
- e. Language is used to make evaluations about a person's intellectual potential

Answer: c Section: The Evaluative Bias of Language

5. Jane is a Canadian citizen. She is kind, goal-oriented, knowledgeable in literature, outgoing and musically inclined. Which of these characteristics would be considered a dichotomous variable?

- a. her nationality
- b. her kindness
- c. her emotional stability
- d. her social behavior
- e. her musical skills

Answer: a Section: Differentiating Dichotomous and Continuous Variables

6. Lee has earned an undergraduate degree in biology. He is motivated to become a doctor. He has ascertained three letters of recommendation from his professors and has applied to medical school. He has not yet proposed to his girlfriend. Which of these characteristics referring to Lee is a continuous variable?

- a. his college degree
- b. his school application
- c. his letters of support
- d. his motivation
- e. his status as a fiancée

Answer: d Section: Differentiating Dichotomous and Continuous Variables

7. De-Barnumize the following statement: "Russians are sensitive to criticism."

- a. Russians are insensitive to criticism.
- b. Russians are extremely sensitive to criticism but insensitive to other people's problems
- c. Russians are insensitive to criticism but sensitive to other people's problems
- d. Russians have an appreciation for nature and respect their ancestors
- e. Russians, in particular situations, become more sensitive to criticism than other groups

Answer: e Section: The Barnum Effect

8. What is the name of the process (described by Jean Piaget) by which we change our existing beliefs and accept new information?

- a. assimilation
- b. accommodation
- c. both assimilation and accommodation
- d. fundamental attribution error
- e. metathinking

Answer: b Section: The Assimilation Bias

9. While traveling in a foreign country you are approached by a group of strangers and have to quickly surmise their intentions. You will likely use a set of quick and simple mental shortcuts to accomplish this task. These shortcuts are called:
- a. fundamental attribution error
  - b. metathinking
  - c. uncertainty avoidance
  - d. heuristics
  - e. self-fulfilling prophecy

Answer: d Section: The Representativeness Bias

10. Why was the fundamental attribution error labeled, “fundamental” by Lee Ross?
- a. because this cognitive error is very common
  - b. because people worry about money and funds before taking a job
  - c. because people are fundamentally unhappy
  - d. because people are fundamentally happy
  - e. because it emphasizes that these errors are “found” and they are “mental”

Answer: a Section: The Fundamental Attribution Error

11. Sana is a Canadian citizen, female, math major, extraverted, open-minded, strong, quick, anxious, and with some attention problems. In such a list of her “features” find a dichotomous variable:
- a. Sana’s anxiety
  - b. Sana’s attention problems
  - c. Sana’s strength
  - d. Sana’s temperament
  - e. Sana’s nationality

Answer: e Section: Differentiating Dichotomous and Continuous Variables

12. Which one of these statements represents the Fundamental Attribution Error of judgment?
- a. Russia as a country has high violent crime rates because the weak criminal justice system.
  - b. Russia as a country has high violent crime rates because of poverty and lack of order.
  - c. Russia as a country has high violent crime rates because of numerous factors.
  - d. Russia as a country has high violent crime rates because Russians are violent people.
  - e. Russia as a country has high violent crime rates because the problems in their educational system and the lack of positive family influence.

Answer: d Section: The Fundamental Attribution Error

## 2.3. True/false questions

1. Masculinity and femininity are examples of continuous variables.

Answer: T Section: Differentiating Dichotomous Variables and Continuous Variables

2. The term unidirectional causation refers to a relationship between two variables wherein one is the cause and the other is the effect.  
Answer: T Section: Bidirectional Causation and Multiple Causation
3. A motivational bias is any systematic error in attribution that derives from limits inherent in people's cognitive abilities to process information.  
Answer: F Section: the Fundamental attribution Error
4. A continuous variable is one that lies along a dimension, range or spectrum, rather than in a discrete category, that can theoretically take on an infinite number of values and is expressed in terms of quantity, magnitude or degree.  
Answer: T Section: Differentiating Dichotomous Variables and Continuous Variables
5. The following is an example of parataxic reasoning: A basketball player listens to his favorite song before a game. His team wins. He concludes that the song contributed to the team's success.  
Answer: T Section: Correlation does not Prove Causation
6. When engaging the belief perseverance effect, an individual readily accepts information that contradicts their preexisting beliefs.  
Answer: F Section: The Belief Perseverance Effect
7. The following statement reflects thinking that is consistent with the naturalistic fallacy. "What is typical is normal and what is normal is good."  
Answer: T Section: The Naturalistic Fallacy
8. A self-fulfilling prophecy occurs when people's expectations actually produce the behaviors they expected to find.  
Answer: T Section: The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy
9. Lee has the tendency to cling stubbornly to his beliefs in supernatural powers, even in the face of contradictory or disconfirming evidence. By doing so, Lee is engaging in the belief perseverance effect.  
Answer: T Section: The Belief Perseverance Effect
10. The Barnum effect refers to people's rejection or reluctance to accept uncritically the validity of Barnum statements.  
Answer: F Section: The Barnum Effect
11. In Great Britain, different indicators of happiness haven't changed much for 40 years despite economic ups and downs.  
Answer: T Section: Multiple Causation
12. If two variables are correlated, this means that one causes the other.  
Answer: F Section: Correlation Does Not Prove Causation

## 2.4. Short-answer questions

1. Dichotomous variables involve classification (quality), while continuous variables involve \_\_\_\_\_.  
Answer: degree  
Section: Differentiating Dichotomous Variables and Continuous Variables
2. Someone who suggests “most people eat meat therefore vegetarians—who do not eat meat— are abnormal” are engaging in what type of fallacy?  
Answer: naturalistic  
Section: The Naturalistic Fallacy
3. A friend reasons that because (according to his assumption) all Asians like spicy food, his Korean neighbor must like it as well. What cognitive strategy did he use when estimating this probability?  
Answer: representativeness  
Section: The Representativeness Bias
4. Research reveals that a person’s confidence is often the result of success. However, it also demonstrates that success is the result of confidence. This is an example of what type of causation?  
Answer: bidirectional  
Section: Bidirectional Causation and Multiple Causation
5. Tanya concludes that whenever she wears a red dress she receives a call from her parents. She decides to wear a blue dress tonight to avoid a phone call from home. What is the name of the type of “magical thinking” that Tanya is engaging in?  
Answer: parataxic  
Section: Correlation does not Prove Causation
6. Joe recently lost his job and cannot find a new one. His friends and family have noticed that he has been agitated and temperamental. Due to the fundamental attribution error his friends any family are likely to conclude that his moodiness is the result of \_\_\_\_\_ rather than external stressors.  
Answer: internal attributes  
Section: The fundamental attribution error
7. What is the name for a variable that can be placed into either of two mutually exclusive categories?  
Answer: dichotomous  
Section: Differentiating Dichotomous Variables and Continuous Variables
8. The statement “She has self-respect issues” is a typical one-size-fits-all statement that is referred to in the text as \_\_\_\_\_.  
Answer: A Barnum statement



Section: The Barnum Effect

9. A friend who explains, “I have firm beliefs and refuse to accept information that contradicts them” is engaging in what type of bias?

Answer: assimilation

Section: The Assimilation Bias

10. Amanda gets extremely anxious before exams and tells herself that she will not pass. She often says, “I am an exchange student. I speak the language poorly.” Although she masters the information while studying, her anxiety prevents her from expressing her ideas clearly during the exam. She scores poorly. This is an example of a \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: Self-fulfilling prophecy

Section: The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy

## 2.5. Essay questions

1. Provide three examples of dichotomous variables related to human behavior. Explain these examples.
2. Why would an individual’s religious beliefs be considered a continuous variable?
3. Provide an example of a relationship between two variables that would be considered bi-directional. Explain this example.
4. In your own words, define cognitive schema and give an example.
5. Define and provide an original (own) example of parataxic reasoning.
6. “Immigrants look for a better life”. Explain why this sentence is considered a Barnum Statement.
7. Suggest an example of the Barnum effect’s influence on people’s judgments.
8. Explain the meaning of the Availability Bias in people’s judgments (use cases provided by the mass media to draw your examples).
9. What are the key differences between cognitive and motivational biases in people’s judgments?
10. Give an example of Self-Fulfilling Prophecy using your personal experience. Explain this example.