

Woolfolk et al., Educational Psychology, 5th Canadian Edition
Chapter 1: Learning, Teaching, and Educational Psychology

Multiple Choice Questions

- 1) Considering the recent statistics on Canadian student diversity presented in the Woolfolk et al. text, which of the following statements is TRUE?
- A) Participation of children in religions other than Christianity has decreased since 2006.
 - B) Children who are regular users of food banks are on the decline.
 - C) Children may live with family members other than just a mom and dad.
 - D) Children with disabilities spend the majority of their day in a Special Education class.

Answer: C

Explanation: C) Students come from increasingly *diverse families*. Their families may include a mom and dad, but they may only live with one parent. Some may live with two moms or two dads, with families also including members of the extended family such as grandparents, or aunts and uncles. The number of children accessing food banks as regular users has *increased* by 86 percent since 1989. Children also come from a wide range of religious communities, with participation in religions other than Christianity *doubling* since 2006. Inclusive policies have resulted in children with disabilities spending the majority of their school day in *general education* classrooms.

Page Ref: 3

Skill: Critical Thinking

Difficulty Level: 2

- 2) According to the research by Stanovich & Jordan (1998) at the University of Toronto (OISE/UT), which of the following is the most important teacher characteristic in reducing behaviour problems in the early years?
- A) teacher engagement
 - B) teacher enthusiasm
 - C) teacher clarity
 - D) teacher knowledge

Answer: A

Explanation: A) These researchers found that teachers who believed it was their responsibility to include and instruct all their students, and therefore be *engaged* in more academic interactions with their students, were more persistent in helping their students succeed.

Page Ref: 4

Skill: Concept

Difficulty Level: 3

- 3) Which relationship BEST describes the impact of teacher preparation and quality of teaching?
- A) There is no relationship between teacher preparation and quality of teaching.
 - B) Teacher preparation and certification were the strongest predictors of student engagement.
 - C) A teacher teaching outside of their major in their teaching field has no significant relationship with student achievement in math and in reading.
 - D) The higher the percentage of teachers teaching outside their field, the lower students' achievement tends to be.

Answer: D

Explanation: D) Research conducted by Linda Darling-Hammond (2000) examined the ways in which teacher qualifications are related to student achievement using data from several U.S.-based courses. Measures of teacher preparation and certification were by far the strongest predictors of student achievement in reading and mathematics, both before and after controlling for student poverty and English language proficiency. Therefore the higher the percentage of teachers who are teaching outside their field, the lower their students' achievement tends to be.

Page Ref: 4

Skill: Critical Thinking

Difficulty Level: 3

- 4) According to the Woolfolk et al. text, which would be the biggest limitation facing student teachers?
- A) Student teaching does not allow prospective teachers to be as reflective about their teaching as they could be.
 - B) Student teaching often occurs during periods when prospective teachers are busy with their own coursework.
 - C) Student teaching does not prepare prospective teachers very well for starting off a school year with a new class.
 - D) Student teaching is often carried out in classrooms that utilize classroom management strategies that a prospective teacher may not believe in.

Answer: C

Explanation: C) Consistent with the “reality shock” experienced by new teachers as they take their first job and face all the responsibilities of their responsibilities with their new class, student teachers too are not really prepared for the beginning of a school year with a new class.

Page Ref: 8

Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 2

- 5) The concerns of educational psychology are distinctive in that they
- A) are limited to the classroom.
 - B) do not overlap those of other fields of study.
 - C) have no place in the laboratory.
 - D) relate to improving learning and instruction.

Answer: D

Explanation: D) The concerns of educational psychology relate to *improving learning and instruction*. To achieve this objective, educational psychologists draw from other disciplines (e.g., psychology and sociology) and conduct research in both the classroom and laboratory.

Page Ref: 10

Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 2

P: .83

D: .16

- 6) The use of the “common sense” approach to teaching is viewed by educational psychologists as
- A) appropriate in most circumstances.
 - B) inappropriate unless supported by research.
 - C) more reliable than scientific judgments.
 - D) the main factor that differentiates experts from novices.

Answer: B

Explanation: B) Educational psychologists view the “common sense” approach to teaching as inappropriate and potentially misleading unless supported by research. As illustrated by the examples in the textbook, common sense ideas often do not work in the expected manner when applied in classrooms.

Page Ref: 10-11

Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 1

P: .69

D: .38

- 7) Research by Ogden, Brophy, and Evertson (1977) on selecting primary-grade students to

read aloud suggests that the best method is to

- A) ask for volunteers to read.
- B) call on students in a prescribed order.
- C) call on students at random.
- D) have students read as a group (choral response).

Answer: B

Explanation: B) Research by Ogden, Brophy, and Evertson (1977) indicated that *first graders achieved better when they were called upon to read in a prescribed order*. Their interpretation was that the children would spend more time rehearsing when they were aware of the sections that they would be asked to read and would get more practice reading because they were not over-looked.

Page Ref: 10

Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 2

- 8) Lily Wong (1987) indicated that when individuals read a research result, they tended to
- A) become resistant toward using the strategy involved.
 - B) find the results more obvious than originally thought.
 - C) put the results into practice immediately.
 - D) seek more information on the subject.

Answer: B

Explanation: B) Wong (1987) demonstrated that when subjects in her study were shown research results (whether or not correct) in writing, they had a greater tendency to believe that the results were *obviously true*.

Page Ref: 11

Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 2

- 9) Research on acceleration for bright children suggests that acceleration is generally
- A) beneficial for these children at all age/grade levels.
 - B) beneficial for younger children but detrimental for older children.
 - C) detrimental for younger children but beneficial for older children.
 - D) harmful for children at all age/grade levels.

Answer: A

Explanation: A) Research summarized by Kirk and his colleagues (1993) suggests that acceleration (skipping grades) is generally *beneficial (and, at least, not harmful) for bright children at all levels*.

Page Ref: 11

Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 3

- 10) When studies are based only on observations, the results should be expressed as

- A) cause-and-effect relationships.
- B) descriptions.
- C) principles.
- D) theories.

Answer: B

Explanation: B) When studies are based only on observations, the results must be expressed as *descriptions of events*. *Descriptive studies rely on observational and subjective data*. Correlational studies identify the relationship(s) among two or more variables for a specific group of people. Experimental studies require controlled, objective data in order to establish causal relationships.

Page Ref: 11-12

Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 2

P: .56

D: .43

- 11) A case study is an investigation of
- A) a small group of people with similar backgrounds.
 - B) different groups of people over a period of time.
 - C) one person or group over a specific period of time.
 - D) people from one geographic area.

Answer: C

Explanation: C) Case studies involve an intensive examination of real-life contexts (such as schools or classrooms) through direct observations, biographical data, school records, test results, peer ratings, and a wide variety of other observational tools. The researcher would investigate *one person or a group of people intensively over a relatively long period of time*.

Page Ref: 12

Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 1

P: .83

D: .24

- 12) A correlation is a statistical description indicating the

- A) direction but not the strength of a relationship.
- B) direction and strength of a relationship.
- C) strength and direction of a treatment effect.
- D) strength but not the direction of a relationship.

Answer: B

Explanation: B) Correlation coefficients indicate *both the strength and direction of relationships* (e.g., strong positive or weak negative). Treatment effects are not involved in correlational research.

Page Ref: 12

Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 1

P: .75

D: .28

- 13) A researcher participates in a class over a two-month period and analyzes the strategies the teacher employs to maintain discipline. This research is an example of what specific type of research study?

- A) Cross-sectional
- B) Ethnography
- C) Experimental
- D) Longitudinal

Answer: B

Explanation: B) *Ethnographic studies* involve an intensive examination of real-life contexts (such as schools or classrooms) through observations. In this example, the researcher spent two months observing the teacher and recording descriptions of the discipline techniques employed. There is no indication that the researcher is a participant observer in the research.

Page Ref: 11-13

Skill: Application

Difficulty: 2

- 14) A researcher concludes from his study that, on a typical school day, students spend only

50 percent of their time engaged in learning. What specific type of research must have been conducted in order for this conclusion to be valid?

- A) Single-subject design
- B) Participant-observer
- C) Descriptive
- D) Experimental

Answer: C

Explanation: C) *Descriptive methods* would be used by a researcher to study how much time is spent on learning activities during a typical day. This would require observations for a number of days and might include students' self-reports and/or teacher ratings in order to identify a pattern for the amount of time actually spent in learning activities.

Page Ref: 11

Skill: Application

Difficulty: 2

P: .72

D: .52

15) A positive correlation between two factors indicates that the factors

- A) are NOT necessarily related.
- B) are strongly related.
- C) decrease proportionately.
- D) tend to increase or decrease together.

Answer: D

Explanation: D) A positive correlation indicates that two factors *increase or decrease together*. As one increases so does the other; as one decreases so does the other.

Therefore, the two factors for a positive correlation vary in the same direction. If the correlation is negative, one factor increases while the other factor decreases. [Note that, unless it is perfect, the correlation only suggests a tendency or pattern.]

Page Ref: 12

Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 2

16) What size or direction of correlation coefficient is likely to be obtained between

children's ages (from five to 13 years) and the distance that they can long jump?

- A) Close to zero
- B) Either +1.00 or -1.00
- C) Negative
- D) Positive

Answer: D

Explanation: D) A *positive relationship* is likely to exist between children's ages and the distance they can long jump. Due to their greater physical size, strength, and agility, older children will generally be able to jump farther than younger children. As age increases, jumping distance tends to increase, at least through adolescence.

Page Ref: 12

Skill: Application

Difficulty: 2

P: .59

D: .42

17) Which one of the following correlation coefficients indicates the strongest relationship?

- A) -0.03
- B) -0.78
- C) +0.56
- D) +0.70

Answer: B

Explanation: B) The strongest correlation of the four choices is represented by -0.78. It is **NOT** the sign (direction) that determines strength; it is the closeness of the correlation to either +1.00 or -1.00. A *correlation of -0.78 represents a fairly strong negative relationship* between the factors being correlated.

Page Ref: 12

Skill: Critical Thinking

Difficulty: 2

P: .68

D: .64

18) What type of correlation coefficient is likely to be obtained between reading ability and

running ability of high-school students?

- A) Close to zero
- B) Either +1.00 or -1.00
- C) Strong positive
- D) Weak negative

Answer: A

Explanation: A) A *correlation close to zero* is likely to exist between reading ability and running ability. The two factors are relatively independent. Better readers are not likely to be faster or slower runners than others and slower readers are not any better at running than their fast-reading peers.

Page Ref: 12

Skill: Application

Difficulty: 3

- 19) When a correlation coefficient of -0.80 is found between factor A and factor B, the most accurate interpretation is that

- A) a decrease in factor A is strongly related to a decrease in factor B.
- B) a decrease in factor A is strongly related to an increase in factor B.
- C) there is NO significant relationship between the two factors.
- D) there is a very weak relationship between the two factors.

Answer: B

Explanation: B) A correlation of -0.80 indicates a strong negative relationship. *Decreases in factor A will be associated with increases in factor B.* Decreases in both factors will result in a positive relationship.

Page Ref: 12

Skill: Critical Thinking

Difficulty: 3

P: .66

D: .49

- 20) A correlation study indicates that teachers' interest in teaching and the amount of the day

their students are engaged in learning correlate at +0.46. This coefficient would indicate that

- A) as teacher interest decreases, engaged time increases.
- B) as teacher interest increases, engaged time tends to increase.
- C) interest in teaching leads to a large increase in engaged time.
- D) there is virtually **NO** relationship between the two variables.

Answer: B

Explanation: B) The +0.46 correlation coefficient suggests a *moderately strong positive relationship* between teaching interest and engaged time. Teachers who have more interest in teaching tend to have students who are more engaged in learning, and vice versa.

Page Ref: 12

Skill: Application

Difficulty: 3

P: .84

D: .25

- 21) A correlation coefficient of 0.90 indicates that
- A) one event has been caused by another event.
 - B) one event is strongly related to another event.
 - C) the two events are related 10 percent of the time.
 - D) the two events are related 90 percent of the time.

Answer: B

Explanation: B) A correlation of 0.90 indicates a *strong positive relationship*. Correlations do not imply cause and effect, only that the two variables or factors are related.

Page Ref: 12

Skill: Critical Thinking

Difficulty: 2

P: .92

D: .21

- 22) A researcher reports that students who have the highest test scores in school tend to be

more involved in extracurricular activities than are other students. What specific type of research study must have been conducted?

- A) Correlational
- B) Descriptive
- C) Ethnographic
- D) Experimental

Answer: A

Explanation: A) The researcher conducted a *correlational study*. The purpose is to determine the relationship between test scores and extracurricular activities. Ethnographic studies are another specific type of descriptive research. **NO** treatment is being manipulated; thus, the research is **NOT** experimental.

Page Ref: 12

Skill: Application

Difficulty: 2

23) Random assignments would be most critical in what type of research?

- A) Case study
- B) Correlational
- C) Descriptive
- D) Experimental

Answer: D

Explanation: D) By randomly assigning subjects to treatments and evaluating the treatments, *experiments are designed to study cause and effect*. Unlike descriptive studies, changes made in an experimental study can be attributed to the treatments introduced, because all other relevant factors are intended to be controlled. In correlational studies, usually only one group of subjects is studied on a variety of factors. A cross-sectional study typically involves several groups of subjects who are then compared on a variety of factors. Such studies are not experimental.

Page Ref: 12

Skill: Critical Thinking

Difficulty: 1

P: .57

D: .28

24) Which one of the following instances is **MOST** like a random sample for a class of thirty

students?

- A) A coin is tossed in order to select students alternately one by one into the experimental and control groups.
- B) The first ten students who enter the classroom are placed into the experimental group and the next ten into the control group.
- C) The first twenty volunteers are selected from the physics class and alternately placed into experimental and control groups.
- D) The twenty students with the highest GPAs are selected and alternately placed into experimental and control groups.

Answer: A

Explanation: A) A random sample is one in which each subject has an equal opportunity to be selected for any group. The three situations described in the alternative answers to this question all concern special, rather than randomly composed, groups of students. Thus, identifying the experimental groups by *coin tossing* is the method that most closely approximates a random selection.

Page Ref: 12

Skill: Critical Thinking

Difficulty: 2

- 25) When a result from a research project involving an experimental design is reported in the literature as significant, this result

- A) contradicts the prevailing theoretical views.
- B) is unrelated to theory development.
- C) is unlikely to have occurred by chance.
- D) will indicate its practical importance.

Answer: C

Explanation: C) Statistical significance means that the result is *unlikely to have occurred by chance*. It does **NOT** necessarily imply that the result has either practical or theoretical importance.

Page Ref: 12

Skill: Critical Thinking

Difficulty: 3

P: .76

D: .38

26) What type of research participants should researchers use for studies of cause-and-effect relationships?

- A) Controlled samples
- B) Random samples
- C) Related samples
- D) Skilled samples

Answer: B

Explanation: B) *Random assignments* are critical for establishing cause-effect relationships. If such assignments are **NOT** employed, the researcher will be unable to determine whether treatment differences are caused by the treatments themselves or by the treatment groups being different in some important way that is related to the outcome being studied.

Page Ref: 12-13

Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 3

27) Dr. Patterson concludes from her research that using a systematic study strategy **CAUSED** good grades for students assigned to a particular group. For this conclusion to be valid, the type of research that was performed must have been what type of study?

- A) Correlational
- B) Descriptive
- C) Experimental
- D) Observational

Answer: C

Explanation: C) Dr. Patterson can infer cause and effect only from *experimentation*. Correlational research and observational research provide descriptive results that do not support causal relations. However, these latter two types of research can often lead to questions that can be studied by means of experimental research.

Page Ref: 11-13

Skill: Application

Difficulty: 2

P: .54

D: .41

28) A researcher finds that students who were given computers to use at home demonstrated greater independent learning skills than a comparable group that was not selected to receive home computers. What type of research study was probably designed for this conclusion to be valid?

- A) Correlational
- B) Descriptive
- C) Experimental
- D) Observation

Answer: C

Explanation: C) Apparently, an *experimental* approach was employed. The key factor is the manipulation and then comparison of different treatments: having computers vs. not having them.

Page Ref: 11-13

Skill: Application

Difficulty: 2

P: .53

D: .30

29) An explanation of how we remember things that we have learned is called a

- A) construct.
- B) correlation.
- C) principle.
- D) theory.

Answer: D

Explanation: D) A *theory* is an *explanation of behaviour or human functioning*, such as how we remember what we have learned or why we are motivated to do something.

Page Ref: 14

Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 1

30) Which is usually established first?

- A) theory
- B) principle
- C) scientific explanation
- D) consistent findings

Answer: D

Explanation: D) Consistent findings are established first as they form the basis of arriving at a principle. Given a number of established principles, educational psychologists develop theories to describe the relationship among a number of variables or even whole systems of relationships.

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Skill: Critical Thinking

Difficulty: 2

31) According to Woolfolk et al., good theories

- A) explain and predict perfectly.
- B) are less scientific compared to ten years ago.
- C) give you a new way of thinking about problems
- D) offer all the answers.

Answer: C

Explanation: C) Few theories are able to explain and predict perfectly or offer all the answers. A good theory however, will provide a new framework for thinking about problems. For example, a good theory of classroom management might provide new insights about discipline problems, give you tools for creating solutions to many different problems and for predicting what might work in new situations (i.e., different classroom contexts, different populations of students etc.)

Page Ref: 14

Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 1

32) Microgenetic studies:

- A) intensively study cognitive processes in the midst of change.
- B) apply a ABAB experiment design.
- C) are employed to assess cause and effect relationships.
- D) typically utilize many children as study participants.

Answer: A

Explanation: A) The goal of microgenetic studies is to intensively study cognitive processes in the midst of change – as the change is actually happening. They explore the underlying mechanisms of that change. This form of research is expensive and time consuming, so often one or a few children are studied. ABAB experimental design has nothing to do with microgenetic studies, but is a form of single-subject experimental design.

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Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 2

33) Action research:

- A) is a form of research that puts an observed behavior “under a microscope.”
- B) is a form of research that employs teachers as researchers.
- C) is a form of research that studies development by observing subjects over many years.
- D) is a form of research that focuses on groups of subjects at different ages.

Answer: B

Explanation: B) Action research involves the systematic observation or testing of methods conducted by teachers or schools to improve the teaching and learning for their own students. A) describes microgenetic studies. C) describes longitudinal studies, and D) describes cross-sectional studies.

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Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 1

34) Which of the following statements are TRUE of longitudinal studies?

- A) They are time consuming and expensive.
- B) They are more commonly used than experimental and cross-sectional studies.
- C) They involve researchers following students over the course of a few days.
- D) They utilize teachers directly in the research process.

Answer: A

Explanation: Longitudinal studies are interested in the cognitive development of their subjects over several months or years. Even though they are informative, they are time-consuming, expensive, and infrequently used as they require following subjects over years. D) captures action research most accurately.

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Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 1

- 35) Which of the following statements best captures the current **criticisms** around the application of experimental research in schools?
- A) Rigorous data analyses and experimentation enhances the usefulness of educational research.
 - B) Educational trials can be considered analogous to clinical trials in medicine.
 - C) Classroom context cannot be easily controlled, and could simplify the complexity of interactions.
 - D) Experimental study is the most prestigious form of research and therefore should solely be promoted.

Answer: C

Explanation: C) Great debate has recently emerged around the importance of experimental research in education. Challenges to the use of controlled experimental research in education has highlighted the challenges to applying “treatments” in education (like those applied in medicine) as the classroom conditions

Page Ref: 14

Skill: Critical Thinking

Difficulty: 2

- 36) Which of the following psychologists did NOT describe a stage theory?
- A) Piaget
 - B) Freud
 - C) Erikson
 - D) Vygotsky

Answer: D

Explanation: D) Piaget, Freud and Erikson all described psychological stage theories. Vygotsky’s work is considered a “contextual theory” where he was interested in how social interactions influence cognitive development.

Page Ref: 15-17

Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 1

37) Jean Piaget:

- A) described a stage theory of cognitive development.
- B) developed a psychosocial theory of development.
- C) described a “developmental crisis” during stages of development.
- D) emphasized the role of sex and aggression in his theory.

Answer: A

Explanation: A) Jean Piaget is well-known for describing a four stage theory of cognitive development. Erik Erikson, also a stage theorist, developed a psychosocial theory of development, suggesting that individuals face a developmental crisis at each stage. It was Freud who was criticized in his theory of overemphasis of sex and aggression.

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Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 1

38) Which of the following was NOT one of the criticisms made of Freud’s theory?

- A) overemphasizing of the role of sex and aggression
- B) basing theories on the memories of wealthy, female, European women
- C) creating stages of development in childhood without ever studying children
- D) limiting his theory to four specific stages of cognitive development

Answer: D

Explanation: D) Freud’s theory is often criticized for the overemphasis placed upon the role of sex and aggression in **five** stages of **psychosexual** development. Freud studied a very limited segment of the population, namely his patients, who were mostly upper-middle-class women, with very specific mental problems and memories.

Page Ref: 15

Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 2

39) Which of the following concepts are most related to behaviourism?

- A) storage and retrieval
- B) beliefs and motivation
- C) antecedents and consequences
- D) unconscious and dream analysis

Answer: C

Explanation: C) Behaviourism is a learning theory focused on what is observable – behaviours. Behaviour is described as being sandwiched between two sets of environmental influences: those that precede the behavior (its antecedents) and those that follow it (its consequences).

Page Ref: 16

Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 2

40) Social Cognitive Theory is most closely associated with which theorist?

- A) Piaget
- B) Bandura
- C) Freud
- D) Skinner

Answer: B

Explanation: B) Bandura's work developed a social cognitive theory of learning and motivation which examined behavioural concerns with consequences and cognitive interests in thinking.

Page Ref: 16

Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 1

41) The zone of proximal development:

- A) is a stage of development described by Jean Piaget.
- B) stems from a bioecological model of development.
- C) is a phase which a child can master a task if given appropriate help.
- D) is a crisis in development experienced by an adolescent seeking their identity.

Answer: C

Explanation: C) Zone of proximal development was an influential concept described by Lev Vygotsky describing how social processes support learning and thinking. ZPD is a phase at which a child can master a task if given appropriate help and support, often from a teacher and from a skilled peer.

Page Ref: 17

Skill: Concept

Difficulty: 1

- 42) Sandra describes her development in terms of the social contexts she finds herself in. Her immediate family consists of number of siblings and supportive parents who are community leaders and advocates for social reform. She participates in many activities at school and in the community, often gets involve in social justice projects at the city and national levels through organizations she participates in. Which theorist would be most interested in this description of Sandra's development?

A) Vygotsky
B) Freud
C) Bandura
D) Bronfenbrenner

Answer: D

Explanation: D) Sandra's development appears to be greatly influenced by the social contexts she finds herself in because they are in constant interaction and influence each other. Therefore this description most closely aligns with a bioecological model of development, described by Urie Bronfenbrenner. Bronfenbrenner suggests that every person lives, learns, and develops within a set of nested systems from the immediate family to neighbourhoods and schools, the community and society. These influences are reciprocal in nature.

Page Ref: 17

Skill: Application

Difficulty: 2

- 43) In comparing Canada and the United States around issues of diversity in education, which of the following statements is TRUE?

A) Ministries of Education across Canada describe policies of inclusion that reflect commitment to *all* students.
B) Canada adheres to legislation described under the *Individual with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) and the *No Child Let Behind Act* (NCLB).
C) Schools in the United States have more flexibility in developing locally responsive programs for children.
D) Adequate Yearly Progress goals are not set and tested for children in the United States who come from low-income homes.

Answer: A

Explanation: A) Canada's Ministries of Education have adopted *policies* of inclusion that reflect their commitment to provide *all* students with meaningful learning experiences that address their unique needs and differences. In the United States, they are guided by legislation, such as IDEA and NCLB, which specify that Adequate Yearly Progress goals have to be set and tested specifically for racial and ethnic minority students, students with disabilities, students whose first language is not English *and* students from low-income homes. As Canada has *policies* (rather than legislation) guiding our inclusive practices, one could argue that this offers greater flexibility in developing locally responsive programs for children.

Page Ref: 18

Skill: Critical Thinking

Difficulty: 3

- 44) When an experimental result is described as *significant* in a research article, this result
- A) contradicts the prevailing theoretical views.
 - B) has major theoretical implications.
 - C) is unlikely to have been observed by chance.
 - D) has substantial practical importance.
- Answer: C
- Explanation: C) The use of the term, *significant*, in the context of an experimental result has specific usage. It may also be referred to as *statistically significant*, meaning the results are unlikely due simply to chance.
- Page Ref: 12
- Skill: Critical Thinking
- Difficulty: 2
- 45) An ethnography:
- A) is a personalized account on either teaching or learning experiences.
 - B) involves studying naturally occurring events in the life of a group.
 - C) involves studying cause and effect relationships.
 - D) involves examining the relationships between variables.
- Answer: B) anthropology.
- Explanation: B) Ethnographic studies are conducted around the course of naturally occurring events in the life of a group.
- Page Ref: 11
- Skill: Concept
- Difficulty: 1
- 46) Dr. Wood conducted an experiment that examined the effect of teaching enthusiasm on student learning. Which is the biggest advantage of this type of study?
- A) Students who participated in this study were randomly selected and assigned to groups.
 - B) The results of this study are likely more statistically significant than other studies.
 - C) Dr. Wood may conclude, more justifiably, that students learn better when teachers are more enthusiastic in the classroom.
 - D) A clear association between teacher enthusiasm and student learning is more likely to be found.
- Answer: C
- Explanation: C) As an experimental study was conducted, Dr. Wood's greatest advantage is being able to draw a cause-effect relationship –therefore having greater explanatory power. Dr. Wood would be able to conclude, with more justification, after conducting the experiment that more enthusiastic teachers causes better student learning. The other options are not necessarily the case or the conclusion cannot easily be drawn.
- Page Ref: 12-13
- Skill: Critical Thinking
- Difficulty: 2

47) At Greendale Public School, four teachers each set out to conduct a research study in his or her classroom. Which study would be LEAST likely to involve the use of a correlational analysis?

- A) Mrs. Tang, who studied amount of reading and spelling test scores
- B) Mr. Lacroix, who studied activity level in gym and degree of academic self-concept
- C) Mr. Nucci, who studied frequency of praise and rate of homework completion
- D) Miss Gann, who studied types of seating arrangements and number of disruptions

Answer: D

Explanation: D) As correlations are numbers that indicate both the strength and the direction of a relationship between two events or measurements, seating arrangements are neither and therefore D) is least likely to be studied by a correlation. D) is more likely studied through conducting descriptive research.

Page Ref: 12

Skill: Application

Difficulty: 3

48) An individual who participates in a research study as a member of the treatment group is called a

- A) subject.
- B) guinea pig.
- C) participant observer.
- D) case study.

Answer: A

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Skill: Concept

Explanation: A) Subjects are the people or animals participating in the study and therefore would be part of the “treatment group.” A participant observer in contrast is when the researcher becomes a participant in the situation in order to better understand what is occurring in the group being studied. A case study involves the intensive study of one person or one situation and therefore would not be considered part of a group.

Difficulty: 1

- 49) A researcher reports that students who have the highest achievement in school tend to be more involved in extracurricular activities compared to students with lower achievement. What specific type of research was most likely conducted to inform this finding?

A) descriptive
B) correlational
C) ethnographic
D) experimental

Answer: B

Explanation: B) As correlations are numbers that indicate both the strength and the direction of a relationship between two events or measurements (e.g., GPA and # of extracurricular activities), a correlational study would most likely be conducted.

Page Ref: 11-13

Skill: Application

Difficulty: 2

- 50) Dr. Mosima had conducted some descriptive research to explore why some students are more motivated to learn grade 6 math than other students. What is the biggest limitation of this type of research?

A) None of the variables were controlled, leaving many possible explanations.
B) There are too many variables to examine in the study making too difficult to conduct.
C) The results seldom reflect what actually occurs in classrooms.
D) Subjects often respond in ways the researcher did not expect.

Answer: A

Explanation: A) The purpose of descriptive research studies is to describe the events in a particular class or several classes utilizing several data sources. But given that students of a grade 6 class are studied in their naturalistic setting, variables cannot be controlled. Therefore many possible explanations could be offered for what are motivating students in the grade 6 class to learn math over other students.

Page Ref: 11

Skill: Critical Thinking

Difficulty: 2

True/False Questions

- 51) As teachers' experience grows, they tend to become more likely to judge their success by their students' successes.

Answer: TRUE

Explanation: As a teacher becomes more experienced, rather than asking about their own performance, they ask, "How are the children doing?" (see Codell, 2001, p. 191).

Page Ref: 8

- 52) According to the research by Stanovich & Jordan (1998) at the University of Toronto (OISE/UT), teacher age is the most important teacher characteristic in reducing behaviour problems in the early years.

Answer: FALSE

Explanation: Teachers who are sensitive to their students' needs and provide frequent, consistent feedback, have students who are less likely to encounter problems later.

Page Ref: 4

- 53) The major concern of new teachers is that they do not know the subject material they have to teach.

Answer: FALSE

Explanation: Beginning teachers concerns include how to maintain classroom discipline, motivate students, accommodate differences among students, evaluation students' work, deal with parents, and get all with other teachers (Conway & Clarke, 2003; Melnick & Meister, 2008; Veenman, 1984).

Page Ref: 8

- 54) Educational Psychology involves the study of learning and teaching, while striving to improve educational practice.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 10

- 55) Compared to experimental studies, descriptive studies are usually conducted in settings that are more realistic.

Answer: TRUE

Explanation: The purpose of descriptive studies is to describe events in a particular class or several classes. In experimental studies, the investigators introduce changes and note the results, therefore the environment is manipulated in some way (and not naturally occurring).

Page Ref: 11-12

- 56) Each time a student gets up, the teacher should remind the students to remain in their seats.

Answer: FALSE

Explanation: The class study by Madsen and colleagues (1968) found that the more often a teacher told students to sit down when they were out of their seats, the more often the students got out of their seats without permission.

Page Ref: 10-11

- 57) Correlations may be included within a descriptive study.

Answer: TRUE

Explanation: Often the results of descriptive studies include reports of correlations.

Page Ref: 12

- 58) Correlations provide the basis for interpretations about cause and effect.
Answer: FALSE
Explanation: Correlations do not prove cause and effect but can indicate the strength and direction of a relationship between variables.
Page Ref: 12
- 59) Random means that each subject has an equal chance to be in any group.
Answer: TRUE
Page Ref: 12
- 60) Principles are the product of consistency in research findings over time.
Answer: TRUE
Page Ref: 14
- 61) Theories explain and predict all occurrences in a given field.
Answer: FALSE
Explanation: Theories are integrated statements of principles that attempt to explain specific phenomena and to make predictions. No theory offers all the answers to a given field.
Page Ref: 14
- 62) Negative correlations are typically weaker than positive correlations.
Answer: FALSE
Explanation: The strength of a correlation is independent of the direction of the correlation. Because a correlational is negative, it may also be strongly negative (e.g., a correlation of -1.00 would be strongly negative).
Page Ref: 12
- 63) Microgenetic studies intensively study cognitive processes in the midst of change.
Answer: TRUE
Page Ref: 13
- 64) A theory can be characterized as a guess or a hunch.
Answer: FALSE
Explanation: This would be a common-sense notion of theory, but not how it is intended in the scientific meaning. A theory is an integrated statement of principles that attempts to explain a phenomenon and make predictions.
Page Ref: 14
- 65) If a statistically significant difference is found between the math scores of two groups, we can conclude the difference was due to a chance occurrence.
Answer: FALSE
Explanation: If something is statistically significance, then it is not likely to be due to a chance occurrence.

- Page Ref: 12
- 66) Erikson's theory describes individuals at each stage facing a developmental crisis.
Answer: TRUE
Page Ref: 15
- 67) The information processing theories of learning describe beliefs about personal capabilities.
Answer: FALSE
Explanation: Information processing theories focus on attention, types of memory, how knowledge is represented and stored, how it is forgotten, and the cognitive systems that make all this possible.
Page Ref: 16
- 68) The *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) describes Canadian legislation on inclusion in schools.
Answer: FALSE
Explanation: Canadian has adopted inclusion *policies* as described by Ministries of Education, to reflect a commitment to provide all students with meaningful learning experiences to address their unique needs and differences. The NCLB is legislation in the United States.
Page Ref: 18
- 69) E. L. Thorndike wrote the first educational psychology text and founded the *Journal of Educational Psychology*.
Answer: TRUE
Page Ref: 9
- 70) Action research is a form of educational research typically conducted by anthropologists.
Answer: FALSE
Explanation: Action research utilizes teacher as researcher, as the focus is on teachers or schools conducting systematic observations or tests of methods to improve teaching and learning for their students.
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Completion Questions

- 71) When beginning teachers confront everyday classroom life, they often experience _____.
Answer: reality shock.
Page Ref: 8
- 72) The study of the processes of teaching and learning is the focus of the discipline of _____.
Answer: educational psychology
Page Ref: 9

- 73) The type of research that attempts to record what happens in classrooms without attempting to manipulate any variables is called _____ research.
Answer: descriptive
Page Ref: 11
- 74) A researcher who becomes a working member of a class over a period of time in order to record and gain understanding of the class dynamics is a(n) _____.
Answer: participant observer
Page Ref: 12
- 75) Research that is designed to determine the relations between two variables is a(n) _____ study.
Answer: correlational
Page Ref: 12
- 76) The type of research that attempts to establish cause and effect relationships is a(n) _____ study.
Answer: experimental
Page Ref: 12
- 77) Each person is given an equal opportunity to be in a treatment or control group by means of _____ sampling.
Answer: random
Page Ref: 12
- 78) Findings considered statistically unlikely to have occurred by chance are described as _____.
Answer: significant
Page Ref: 12
- 79) Broad frameworks that attempt to explain relationships between sets of variables are called _____.
Answer: theories
Page Ref: 14
- 80) When findings in a given area repeatedly support the same conclusion, a(n) _____ can be derived.
Answer: principle
Page Ref: 14
- 81) You pick names from a hat to determine which group you should assign each subject to. This is a _____ assignment.
Answer: random
Page Ref: 12

82) According to the research of Stanovich & Jordan (1998) at the University of Toronto (OISE/UT), teacher engagement has the most impact on classroom management during the _____ grades.

Answer: primary

Page Ref: 4

83) Weight of clothing and outside temperature are _____ correlated.

Answer: negatively

Page Ref: 12

84) If researchers wanted to study the development of students over many years as change occurs, they would likely be conducting a _____ study.

Answer: longitudinal

Page Ref: 13

85) Vygotsky described a phase at which a child can master a task if given appropriate help and support. He termed this the _____.

Answer: zone of proximal development

Page Ref: 17

Short Answer Questions

86) List the problems or issues that most concern beginning teachers today. Which concerns would be the most important to you personally? Explain your choice(s).

Answer:

New teachers may worry about their teaching skills, being liked by peers and students, making a good impression, and basically surviving. Specific concerns are maintaining discipline, motivating students, accommodating individual differences, evaluating students, and dealing with parents.

Page Ref: 8

87) Use the research by Stanovich & Jordan (1998) at the University of Toronto to explain why teacher engagement impacts classroom management more than other types of effective teaching behaviours.

Answer:

In the study at U of T, the more engaged teachers believed that it was their responsibility to instruct and include all students in the classroom; including disabled and ESL students. And as a result were more persistent in helping students to succeed in school.

Page Ref: 4

88) Explain why both the research by Hamre & Pianta (2001), and the research by Stanovich & Jordan (1998) found that teacher engagement has the greatest impact on reducing behavioural problems during the early school years.

Answer:

One possible reason that teacher engagement has the greatest impact on reducing behavioural problems during the early school years is because kindergarten and primary students have not yet formed difficult behaviours and/or come to the classroom with negative expectations about their teachers and their own academic self-efficacy. This makes young students much more receptive to the positive attention & encouragement of highly engaged teachers.

Page Ref: 4

89) Differentiate between descriptive and experimental research with regard to purpose and methods.

Answer:

Descriptive research cannot show cause-and-effect relationships; it does not involve a change or treatment, and it uses observation to characterize things as they exist. Relationships between variables are often described by correlations. Experimental research involves randomization, control of some variables, and a dependent variable (outcome) and independent variable (treatment). Experimental research may indicate cause-and-effect relationships.

Page Ref: 11-12

90) The local secondary school board is interested in finding a way to reduce the number of times students arrive late for class. At the last committee meeting, someone came up with an idea that at the end of the month, the school could give a movie pass to each student who arrived late no more than once during the month. To explore the effectiveness of giving movie passes to reduce lateness, explain which type of research would be most appropriate, and outline one advantage and one disadvantage of this type of research.

Answer:

The objective here would be to determine if frequency of lateness is reduced by giving out movie passes as opposed to some other variable, such as time of year or homework load. Therefore, the most appropriate type of research would be experimentation, so that one would be better able to conclude that giving out movie passes caused students to be late fewer times. One advantage of experimentation is that the researchers can control when the movie passes are to be given out and therefore, better identify a cause-and-effect relationship. The disadvantage of experimentation is that because the school environment is controlled somewhat (e.g., the movie passes, assigning subjects to groups), the results may not be the same as what would be found in a natural setting in which nothing was controlled or manipulated.

Page Ref: 12-13

91) Explain the notion of “common sense answers” in educational research. Use an example to illustrate how common sense knowledge answers differ from answers based on research.

Answer:

Common sense dictates that when students repeatedly get out of their seats without permission, the teacher should remind them to remain in their seats. The repeated reminders would help the overactive students remember the rule and show the rest of the class that the teacher is serious about the rule. Research on this particular behavior has shown that the more often a teacher tells a student to sit down when they are out of their seats, the more often the students got out of their seats without permission. When the teacher ignored students who were out of their seats and praised students who were sitting down, the rate of out-of-seat behavior dropped greatly. This was repeatedly shown to be the case, when the teacher returned to the previous system of telling students to sit down, the rate of out-of-seat behavior increased once again.

Page Ref: 10-11