

Chapter 1

True / False

1. Legitimate ex post facto hypothesizing requires additional research.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

2. The misuse of authority refers to experts who discuss their area of expertise in public.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

3. According to the scientific method, scientific evidence that has been strongly supported in numerous replications is not open to question.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

4. Almost all reviews of research on social work practice effectiveness have agreed that it is very effective.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

5. Some research studies get published despite having violated some of key methodological principles..

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

6. It is possible that some social work services might have unintended harmful effects on clients, no matter how well trained the social workers are in delivering those services, and no matter how appropriately they deliver them.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

7. When social work practitioners utilize research discriminately, they help uphold and advance the values and mission of their profession.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

8. Refusing to examine research on the services we deliver has no bearing on how professionally ethical we are.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

Chapter 1

9. If a study has been published, you can be sure that it has been conducted objectively and rigorously.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

10. Researchers employing the scientific method should be open to the pursuit of evidence that disconfirms their conclusions.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

Multiple Choice

11. In social work, science could best be described as

- a. technology
- b. a method of inquiry.
- c. statistics.
- d. all of the above.

ANSWER: b

12. Our attempts to learn about the world we live in come from

- a. direct experience.
- b. tradition.
- c. direct, personal inquiry.
- d. authority.
- e. all of the above.

ANSWER: e

13. Assume that Professor Rodgers had studied only people aged 65 or older and found that they experienced increasing levels of happiness in the last 20 years. Suppose he had concluded that people under 65 years of age also experienced increasing levels of happiness during the same time period. He would have committed

- a. the error of overgeneralization.
- b. the error of selective observation.
- c. the error of illogical reasoning.
- d. the error of inaccurate observation.
- e. no error.

ANSWER: a

14. Safeguards against selective observation in science include

- a. use of a research design.
- b. colleagues.
- c. committing oneself ahead of time to make a specified number of observations.
- d. all of the above.
- e. none of the above.

Chapter 1

ANSWER:

d

15. Which of the following is/are an aim of social work research?

- a. To produce knowledge for knowledge's sake.
- b. To provide practical knowledge to guide social work practice.
- c. To provide information needed to alleviate human suffering and promote social welfare
- d. all of the above
- e. Both b and c are true

ANSWER:

e

16. Early reviews of research on social work practice effectiveness showed that

- a. there were doubts about the effectiveness of social work practice.
- b. all reviewers were equally pessimistic about social work practice effectiveness.
- c. we can assume that if social workers are well trained, then they will be effective
- d. social work practice consists of interventions that have been well tested.
- e. Both a and b are true

ANSWER:

a

17. Which of the following statements is true about the need to critique research quality?

- a. Practitioners can rely on researchers to produce good studies, and therefore only have to know the results of those studies.
- b. If a research study gets published practitioners can be assured that it is of high quality.
- c. Social work practitioners need to understand research methods so they can discriminate strong from weak studies and influence the value of the research produced in their agencies.
- d. Social work practitioners should have enough research expertise to point out flaws in the studies that attack social work or the welfare policies social workers advocate.
- e. Both c and d are true

ANSWER:

e

18. Which of the following statements is true about research utilization and social work practice:

- a. Whether or not social work practitioners bother to keep abreast of research findings on which interventions are the most effective for their clients has no bearing on how professionally ethical those social workers are.
- b. Whether or not social work practitioners bother to keep abreast of research findings on which interventions are the most effective for their clients has no bearing on how compassionate those social workers are.
- c. Whether or not social work practitioners bother to keep abreast of research findings on which interventions are the most effective for their clients has no bearing on social work values.
- d. All of the above are true.
- e. None of the above is true.

ANSWER:

e

19. A family preservation program director helps design a study that evaluates the effectiveness of her program to keep children living with their abusive parents by providing the families with daily home visits by social workers. She expects the evaluation to show a dramatic reduction in reported child abuse incidents. Instead, the results show an increase in reported child abuse incidents. The director then concludes that the program was undoubtedly effective, reasoning that there really could not possibly have been an increase in actual abuse due to her program, just an increase in reportage of

Chapter 1

abuse due to closer monitoring in the daily home visits. The director is committing the error of

- a. illogical reasoning.
- b. ex post facto hypothesizing.
- c. premature closure of inquiry.
- d. selective observation.
- e. mystification.

ANSWER:

b

20. A social worker invents a new therapy that brings her fame, fortune, and a large following of professional disciples. Two studies evaluate her new therapy. One is scientifically weak in its design, and concludes that her therapy is extremely effective. The other is scientifically very strong in its design, but concludes that her therapy is not effective at all. She writes a letter to the journal publishing both studies. In her letter she severely criticizes the design of the strong study and therefore also criticizes the credibility of its findings, and she praises the design and findings of the weak study. The director is committing the error of

- a. overgeneralization.
- b. ego-involvement in understanding.
- c. premature closure of inquiry.
- d. made-up information.
- e. mystification.

ANSWER:

b

21. Which of the following statements is/are true regarding practice effectiveness?

- a. It is safe to assume that well-trained social workers will be effective regardless of which interventions they employ.
- b. Social work practice consists largely of interventions and procedures that have not yet received adequate testing.
- c. Knowledge of research methods and knowledge of practice are separate and unrelated.
- d. All of the above are true.
- e. None of the above is true.

ANSWER:

b

22. Which of the following statements is/are true regarding entering your first job as a professional social worker?

- a. You should disregard agency traditions.
- b. You should disregard advice based on authority, even if the authority figure has a high level of training, credentials and experience.
- c. You should keep in mind that knowledge based on tradition and authority could be wrong, and seek evidence that might support or challenge that knowledge.
- d. All of the above are true.
- e. None of the above is true.

ANSWER:

c

23. According to the scientific method, all knowledge should be

- a. provisional.
- b. subject to refutation.

Chapter 1

- c. based on evidence supported by objective observations.
- d. All of the above

ANSWER:

d

24. Scientific evidence should be based on

- a. the teachings of authoritative scientists.
- b. systematic and comprehensive observations.
- c. a large and diverse sample of observations.
- d. observations gathered in ways that seek to reduce the influence of researcher biases.
- e. All of the above
- f. b, c, and d only

ANSWER:

f

25. Which of the following statements is are true about the scientific method?

- a. Some things are NOT open to question.
- b. Good studies need NOT be replicated.
- c. All knowledge is considered provisional.
- d. All of the above are true.
- e. None of the above is true.

ANSWER:

c

26. Which of the following is are a warning sign of the possibility of pseudoscience?

- a. Caution is employed in making claims.
- b. Overgeneralization is avoided.
- c. Claims are based on testimonials.
- d. All of the above.
- e. None of the above.

ANSWER:

c

27. According to the scientific method:

- a. currently accepted knowledge should be open to question.
- b. even the best research studies need to be replicated.
- c. observations should be comprehensive and unbiased
- d. All of the above

ANSWER:

d

Essay

28. Describe how scientific inquiry differs from pseudoscientific inquiry.

ANSWER: will vary

29. Explain what is meant by the statement, "Tradition and authority are the two-edged swords in the search for knowledge about the world."

ANSWER: will vary

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____
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Chapter 1

30. Explain why it is important for social work practitioners to utilize research on social work practice.

ANSWER: will vary

31. Explain what is meant by ego involvement in understanding.

ANSWER: will vary

32. Remembering the mnemonic trout, identify and describe the 5 key features of the scientific method.

ANSWER: will vary

33. Provide an example of how we can learn things from the popular media and an example of how we can be misled by them.

ANSWER: will vary