

Chapter 01 - Crime, Criminal Justice, and Scientific Inquiry

True / False

1. We live in a world of two realities: agreement and empirical.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

2. Casual human inquiry is a more rigorous way of investigation than probability and causality.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

3. The keystone of inquiry is observation.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

4. We can understand something by knowing the why before the what.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

5. Selective observation is a danger of overgeneralization.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

6. Value is a relative concept and cannot be settled by science.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

7. A vast number of norms and rules in society create regularity.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

8. The four purposes of research are exploration, description, explanation, and application.

- a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

Multiple Choice

9. According to the text, most criminal justice professionals (especially supervisors) routinely review:

- a. computer readouts and news reports
- b. archived and updated spreadsheets
- c. performance reports and statistical tabulations
- d. databases

ANSWER: c

10. The objective of the text is to help future criminal justice professionals become:

- a. informed consumers of research
- b. informed consumers of books
- c. experts in the department of justice
- d. expert readers

ANSWER: a

11. We live in a world of two realities known as:

- a. expressed and assumed
- b. experiential and agreement
- c. expressed and agreement
- d. experiential and assumed

ANSWER: b

12. Things we know from direct experience are a direct result of which type of reality?

- a. agreement
- b. expressed
- c. assumed
- d. experiential

ANSWER: d

13. Things we consider real because we've been told they are real is an example of:

- a. agreement reality
- b. expressed reality
- c. assumed reality
- d. experiential reality

ANSWER: a

14. A research project concerning law enforcement that produces an alternative view of a practice represents:

- a. known reality

- b. expressed reality
- c. empirical reality
- d. experiential reality

ANSWER: d

15. Traditional beliefs about patrol effectiveness, response time, and detective work are examples of:

- a. known reality
- b. agreement reality
- c. experiential reality
- d. assumed reality

ANSWER: b

Scientists must have two types of support before they will agree on something they haven't personally experienced. These types are:

16. Scientists must have two types of support before they will agree on something they haven't personally experienced. These types are:

- a. epistemological and methodological
- b. logical and hard facts
- c. logical and empirical
- d. hard facts and complete data

ANSWER: c

17. What is the science of knowing?

- a. methodology
- b. entomology
- c. modality
- d. epistemology

ANSWER: d

18. What method is known as the science of finding out?

- a. epistemology
- b. methodology
- c. observations
- d. data gathering

ANSWER: a

19. Human inquiry attempts to answer what two questions?

- a. where and when
- b. who and why
- c. how and when
- d. what and why

ANSWER: d

20. Prediction can be made better by observation and remembering regular:

- a. assumptions
- b. patterns
- c. educated guesses
- d. pasts

ANSWER: b

21. Agreed on knowledge that others give us is known as:

- a. tradition and authority
- b. tradition and experience
- c. agreement reality
- d. understanding

ANSWER: c

22. When we rely on the “truths” of our culture, we are accepting knowledge derived from the majority, and this is called acceptance of:

- a. traditions
- b. myths
- c. reality
- d. agreement

ANSWER: a

As we learn about the world around us we use personal inquiry and direct experience. However, what other sources of knowledge do we rely on?

23. As we learn about the world around us we use personal inquiry and direct experience. However, what o...

- a. tradition and authority
- b. exploration and description
- c. surveys and observations
- d. aggregate data and survey data

ANSWER: a

24. When we trust the judgments of people who have special training, such as a doctor or a lawyer, we are accepting their:

- a. wisdom
- b. expertise
- c. authority
- d. word

ANSWER: c

25. When we rely on authority to get information about the world around us, which of the following is most likely?

- a. the resulting information is always correct
- b. the information can both help inquiry and hinder it
- c. the resulting information is always wrong
- d. you can never know if the information you gather is correct

ANSWER: b

26. Selective observation can be the result of:

- a. replication
- b. illogical reasoning
- c. ideology and politics
- d. overgeneralization

ANSWER: d

When taking conscious and deliberate steps to insure that what you are looking at is what you intended to look at, you avoid:

27. When taking conscious and deliberate steps to insure that what you are looking at is what you intend...

- a. overgeneralization
- b. inaccurate observation
- c. illogical reasoning
- d. generalization

ANSWER: b

Which of the following would be the best example of the potential for inaccurate observations in the criminal justice system?

28. Which of the following would be the best example of the potential for inaccurate observations in the...

- a. eyewitness testimony
- b. police officers on a stake-out
- c. the state witnesses at an execution
- d. correction officers watching a potentially suicidal prisoner

ANSWER: a

29. When there is pressure to reach a general understanding, there is a tendency toward:

- a. overgeneralization
- b. inaccurate observations
- c. illogical reasoning
- d. miscalculation

ANSWER: a

30. When you repeat a study to see if you achieve similar results, you are doing:

- a. too much work
- b. pattern following

- c. replication
- d. theoretical repetition

ANSWER: c

31. Overgeneralization can lead to misrepresentation and:

- a. justification
- b. simplification
- c. complication
- d. replication

ANSWER: a

If you have concluded that a particular pattern exists and have developed a general understanding of why, you may be tempted to ignore facts in the future that don't fit. This is:

32. If you have concluded that a particular pattern exists and have developed a general understanding of...

- a. inaccurate observation
- b. overgeneralization
- c. illogical reasoning
- d. selective observation

ANSWER: d

33. During observation, if you choose to follow "the exception that proves the rule," you have made what error?

- a. inaccurate observation
- b. overgeneralization
- c. illogical reasoning
- d. selective observation

ANSWER: c

34. Illogical reasoning is best illustrated by which of the following?

- a. The weather has been good all month, so this weekend the weather will be good enough to go to the beach.
- b. I have lost at gambling for hours now, so if I just play a little longer, I will win back what I have lost.
- c. On my way to work, I always ease through the stop sign at the corner of the school's parking lot, and since I have never been hit there, I will continue to do that.
- d. The last two exams were easy, so there is no need for me to study for this exam.

ANSWER: b

35. One way social science differs from our casual day-to-day inquiry is that it is:

- a. a conscious activity
- b. a subconscious activity
- c. a formal activity

d. an informal activity

ANSWER: a

36. Research into crime is related to ideology and politics in the following manner:

a. crime should not be used as a political issue

b. the study of crime can lead to policies that enhance the functioning of the criminal justice system

c. there is no political nature to the study of crime

d. there are no ideological issues in the study of crime

ANSWER: b

37. Two pillars of science are:

a. logic and data

b. questions and answers

c. logic and observation

d. research and development

ANSWER: c

38. What are three major aspects of the overall scientific enterprise?

a. theory, data collection, selective observation

b. theory, data collection, data analysis

c. data collection, data analysis, funding

d. theory, data analysis, funding

ANSWER: b

39. Social science cannot settle debates on:

a. facts

b. observations

c. logic

d. values

ANSWER: d

40. Which of the following is not a subject that can be studied effectively?

a. Should a state consider adopting the death penalty?

b. Are appointed public defenders better than those that are elected in getting not-guilty verdicts?

c. Are police officers respected by citizens more in community-policing areas?

d. Are child protective services employees effective as measured by the number of families they reunite?

ANSWER: a

41. Social regularities represent:

a. probabilistic patterns

b. probabilistic problems

- c. probabilistic predictions
- d. probabilistic positions

ANSWER: a

42. Concrete steps that are used to measure specific concepts are referred to as:

- a. operationalization
- b. observations
- c. application
- d. conceptualization

ANSWER: a

43. Gender and race are both examples of:

- a. an attribute
- b. a variable
- c. an assessment
- d. a fallacy

ANSWER: b

44. Social science involves the study of:

- a. positives and negatives
- b. variables and concepts
- c. variables and paradigms
- d. variables and attributes

ANSWER: d

45. Why is a survey the most appropriate method for studying general concern and fear for personal safety?

- a. It is an organized approach to a large research sample.
- b. It allows for understanding of what cannot be observed directly.
- c. It is easy for the survey takers to understand what is being asked of them.
- d. It is the most efficient research method to analyze results.

ANSWER: b

46. Why are websites not reliable literature sources?

- a. They are not reviewed by librarians.
- b. Websites can be updated on a regular basis.
- c. They are rarely reviewed or refereed.
- d. They do not do a good job of synthesizing information.

ANSWER: c

47. Which of the following is not a budget consideration for a research proposal?

- a. personnel
- b. equipment
- c. travel

d. gathering references

ANSWER: d

48. What aspect of the research proposal is not included in the abstract?

- a. methods used in the study
- b. the purpose of the study
- c. major findings of the study
- d. major references cited in the study

ANSWER: d

49. What are two types of applied research?

- a. evaluation and problem analysis
- b. descriptive research and evaluation
- c. explanatory research and descriptive research
- d. explanatory research and problem analysis

ANSWER: a

50. What is the proper work flow for creating a research project?

- a. conceptualize, observe, analyze, apply
- b. observe, analyze, apply, conceptualize
- c. choose research method, conceptualize, analyze, apply
- d. choose research method, conceptualize, apply, analyze

ANSWER: a

51. What are the four purposes of research?

- a. exploration, description, explanation, application
- b. exploration, description, funding, application
- c. exploration, development, inquisition, funding
- d. exploration, development, inquisition, application

ANSWER: a

When we attempt to gather baseline data, usually because of new technology or some new law, the purpose of our research is:

52. When we attempt to gather baseline data, usually because of new technology or some new law, the pur...

- a. exploration
- b. description
- c. explanation
- d. application

ANSWER: a

53. When a policy change is being considered, the most appropriate study would be:

- a. descriptive

- b. explanatory
- c. explorative
- d. applicative

ANSWER: c

You observe police activity in your city for one week, and then you describe what you observed. What type of study have you performed?

54. You observe police activity in your city for one week, and then you describe what you observed. What...

- a. explorative
- b. descriptive
- c. explanative
- d. applicative

ANSWER: b

55. When we do a study to determine why people have different opinions on the same topic, what is the purpose for the study?

- a. exploration
- b. description
- c. explanation
- d. application

ANSWER: c

56. When we attempt to answer questions about why something happens, the purpose of our research is?

- a. exploration
- b. description
- c. explanation
- d. application

ANSWER: c

57. What are the two major types of applied research?

- a. evaluation and problem analysis
- b. evaluation and policy analysis
- c. application and policy analysis
- d. problem and policy analysis

ANSWER: a

Your college has implemented a new policy on campus regarding underage drinking. You want to evaluate its effects. The purpose of your research is:

58. Your college has implemented a new policy on campus regarding underage drinking. You want to evaluat...

- a. exploration

- b. description
- c. explanation
- d. application

ANSWER: d

59. A great place to start when conducting a literature review is:

- a. a scholarly journal
- b. a previous research study
- c. a library
- d. a data software program

ANSWER: c

60. Which of the following is an important element that is often not thought of when creating a research project?

- a. the budget
- b. the population
- c. research methods
- d. stakeholders

ANSWER: a

61. When is an Internet search is good for getting ideas about potential research topics?

- a. when specialized tools are used
- b. all the time
- c. Internet searches are not good; book-bound journals are better
- d. when you are late on an assignment

ANSWER: a

62. The research process starts with:

- a. observations
- b. data processing
- c. an idea
- d. research methods

ANSWER: c

63. Doing a literature review should be:

- a. done only when one has to do it
- b. done in pieces to set up a research problem
- c. systematic and deliberate
- d. unorganized

ANSWER: c

64. Stepping on a thorn for the first time and realizing that it is painful before anyone tells you it is painful is an example of:

- a. agreement reality

- b. inaccurate observation
- c. experiential reality
- d. a nomothetic explanation

ANSWER: c

65. Which of the following describes the role of politics in social science/CJ research?

- a. can play a role
- b. never plays a role
- c. rarely plays a role
- d. plays an essential role

ANSWER: a

66. Which of the following best defines conceptualization of a research process?

- a. the manner in which variables are defined
- b. how a population is decided upon
- c. the specific analytic structure used for a study
- d. the initial concept used for a study

ANSWER: d

67. Samantha has concluded that living in a co-ed residence hall makes residents more alike. As she continues her research, she tends to focus on events and situations that fit this pattern. Which error in inquiry is reflected?

- a. inaccurate observation
- b. selective observation
- c. overgeneralization
- d. illogical reasoning

ANSWER: c

68. The first part of most scholarly journal articles is:

- a. the introduction
- b. the discussion section
- c. a research abstract
- d. the methods section

ANSWER: c

69. Brainstorming and specifying all the concepts to be discussed in the research project is known as:

- a. analysis
- b. application
- c. conceptualization
- d. operationalization

ANSWER: c

70. Astor repeated a study to determine if she would obtain similar results to those that

were found in her original study, and thereby engaged in:

- a. research and development
- b. logical reasoning
- c. replication
- d. theoretical repetition

ANSWER: c

Completion

71. Patterns of cause and effect are _____ in nature.

ANSWER: probabilistic

72. _____ research is the production of knowledge based on experience or observation.

ANSWER: Empirical

73. _____ means repeating a study, checking to see whether similar results are obtained each time.

ANSWER: Replication

74. Illogical reasoning occurs if you choose to follow the exception that proves the _____.

ANSWER: rule

75. _____ science cannot settle debates on values.

ANSWER: Social

76. Epistemology and _____ are two scientific approaches to the discovery of reality.

ANSWER: methodology

77. Eyewitness testimony that turns out to be inaccurate is an example of the inaccurate _____ type of error in personal human inquiry.

ANSWER: observation

78. The culture we are born into is made up of accepted knowledge about the world around us and is known as _____.

ANSWER: tradition

79. When a researcher is aware that a certain pattern exists in the data, he/she may commit the error of _____ observation when he or she ignores events that do not fit the pattern.

ANSWER: selective

80. Much of our knowledge is based on _____ rather than on direct experience.

ANSWER: agreement

81. The "science of knowing" refers to _____.

ANSWER: epistemology

Essay

82. Identify three errors in human inquiry. Explain each by using an example from the field of criminal justice.

ANSWER: N/A

83. Discuss the purposes of doing research. Give an example of each by using a hypothetical from the field of criminal justice.

ANSWER: N/A

84. Explain the difference between quantitative and qualitative data. Give an example of each from the field of criminal justice. Can both quantitative and qualitative data be used for each of the four purposes of doing research? Why or why not?

ANSWER: N/A

85. Tradition and authority are forms of personal human inquiry. Give examples of each by using scenarios from the criminal justice field.

ANSWER: N/A

Multiple Choice

86. Why is using Google Scholar a good idea when conducting Internet research?

- a. It narrows down the search to publications that have been referenced in other publications.
- b. It yields the most results.
- c. It generates a bibliography of sources for the researcher.
- d. It narrows the search to scholarly books and articles.

ANSWER: d

87. If a researcher wishes to determine how an innovative approach in policing in one district compares to other districts, he is undertaking what type of research?

- a. applied research
- b. descriptive research
- c. exploratory research
- d. explanatory research

ANSWER: c