

Test Bank

Chapter 2: The Process and Problems of Social Research

1. A hypothesis suggests that the change in the independent variable creates change in the dependent variable.

*A) True

B) False

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: TF

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

2. A theory is a tentative statement about empirical reality including a relationship between two or more variables.

A) True

*B) False

Answer Location: What Is the Theory?

Question Type: TF

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

3. Deductive research begins the research process with theory, from which a hypothesis is derived.

*A) True

B) False

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: TF

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

4. The ecological fallacy suggests that change in the dependent variable is caused by something other than the independent variable.

A) True

*B) False

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: TF

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

5. A good social research question will be feasible and will have social and scientific relevance.

*A) True

B) False

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: TF

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

6. When the independent variable decreases, so does the dependent variable. This pattern is known as a positive direction of association.

*A) True

B) False

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: TF

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

7. An anomalous pattern in the data does not seem to fit the theory from which a research hypothesis was derived.

*A) True

B) False

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: TF

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

8. Descriptive research starts with data and proceeds only to the stage of making empirical generalizations; it does not generate entire theories.

*A) True

B) False

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: TF

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

9. In a panel design, data are collected from the same individuals at multiple points in time.

*A) True

B) False

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: TF

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

10. An example of a cohort study would be to conduct a survey of people born in the 1950s at one point in time.

A) True

*B) False

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: TF

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

11. Longitudinal research collects data at more than one point in time.

*A) True

B) False

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: TF

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

12. According to Erving Goffman, interactions among individuals cannot be units of analysis in social research.

A) True

*B) False

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: TF

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

13. Serendipitous patterns stimulate new ideas and theoretical approaches for continuing lines of research.

*A) True

B) False

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: TF

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

14. In longitudinal research designs, researchers collect data on participants for a single extended period of time.

A) True

*B) False

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: TF

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Use the following directions to answer questions 15–17:

In each set, match a concept from Group A to a definition or example from Group B.

15. The Research Circle

Group A

1. Theory
2. Hypothesis
3. Variable
4. Empirical generalization

Group B

- a. A characteristic or property that can take on different values or attributes
- b. A pattern in data that does not seem to fit the theory being proposed
- c. A logically interrelated set of propositions about empirical reality
- d. A tentative statement about empirical reality, involving a relationship between two or more variables
- e. A pattern empirically observed in data

Answers:

- 1—c
- 2—d
- 3—a
- 4—e

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

16. Temporal Considerations in Social Research

Group A

1. Cross-sectional research
2. Panel study
3. Repeated cross-sectional research
4. Cohort study

Group B

- a. Collects data from different samples of the same population at multiple points in time
- b. Collects data at a single point in time
- c. Collects data from people who share a common starting point at multiple points in time
- d. Collects data from the same individuals at multiple points in time

Answers:

- 1—b
- 2—d
- 3—a
- 4—c

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

17. Research Strategies

NOTE: Answers from Group B may be used more than once.

Group A

1. Begins with theory
2. Begins with theory but stops with empirical generalizations
3. Involves hypothesis testing
4. Typically used in quantitative research
5. Builds from data to theory

Group B

- a. Deductive research
- b. Descriptive research
- c. Inductive research
- d. Longitudinal research

Answers:

- 1—a
2—b
3—a
4—a
5—c

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

18. Nicole investigated the 2002 General Social Survey to determine the effect of educational attainment on one's self-reported happiness. This is an example of:

- *A) Cross-sectional design
B) Repeated cross-sectional design
C) Trend design
D) Panel design
E) Cohort design

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

19. Megan considered the median income and median value of homes in different cities to measure economic inequality. What is the unit of analysis in her study?
- A) Median income
 - B) Median home value
 - *C) City
 - D) Both A and B
 - E) None of the above

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Application

20. Beth tested whether an individual's attitudes about homosexuality varied by how frequently the individual attended religious services. What is Beth's dependent variable?
- A) Individual
 - *B) Attitudes about homosexuality
 - C) Frequency of attendance at religious services
 - D) Positive
 - E) Inverse (negative)

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Application

21. Megan's research found that City H had a much higher median income than City L. Can she assume that an individual selected for a survey of the City H will have a higher income than an individual selected from City L?
- A) Yes, because of sample generalizability.
 - B) No, because of cross-population generalizability.
 - C) Yes, because of reductionism.
 - *D) No, because of an ecological fallacy.
 - E) Yes, but only if she uses systematic sampling.

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Application

22. In a review of the average teacher salaries across school districts, Flo found a range from \$35,000 to \$65,000, with teachers in urban school districts generally earning more than those in rural and suburban school districts. Flo has done what?

- *A) Made an empirical generalization
- B) Constructed a theory
- C) Tested a theory
- D) Constructed a hypothesis
- E) All of the above

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Application

23. The General Social Survey draws a sample of about 1,500 people every two years. This is an example of what type of research design?

- A) Panel
- *B) Trend
- C) Cohort
- D) Cross-sectional
- E) Theoretical

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

24. The General Social Survey selects 1,500 individuals from a population of U.S. households that contain telephones. The unit of analysis of the GSS is:

- *A) Individual
- B) Household
- C) United States
- D) 1,500
- E) Households with telephones

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

25. The scientific relevance of a research question refers to its ability to:

- A) Start and finish within a time limit
- B) Generate specific suggestions for social policy
- *C) Resolve contradictions in or advance social theory
- D) Be completed within budget
- E) Make a difference in the social world

Answer Location: What Is the Theory?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

26. The results of Sherman and Berk's (1984) study of the impact of arrest on repeat calls to the police department for domestic violence supported which of the following social theories?

A) Symbolic interactionism
*B) Deterrence theory
C) Labeling theory
D) Conflict theory
E) Inductive logic

Answer Location: What Is the Theory?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

27. Deductive theory begins with which element?

*A) Social theory
B) Hypothesis testing
C) Empirical generalization
D) Descriptive research
E) Anomalous findings

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

28. A variable that is hypothesized to vary depending on the influence of another variable is called a(n):

A) Control variable
*B) Dependent variable
C) Independent variable
D) Dichotomous variable
E) Extraneous variable

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

29. Which of the following is an example of a positive direction of association in a hypothesis?

A) As an individual's level of education increases, prejudice decreases.
*B) The more sexual partners a person has, the more likely he or she is to be exposed to sexually transmitted diseases.
C) As computer literacy increases, amount of social interaction declines.
D) As household income decreases, percent of income devoted to housing increases.
E) As an individual's age increases, his or her criminality decreases.

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

30. Which of the following is an example of a negative direction of association?

- *A) As number of hours of television watched per week increases, the number of hours spent reading per week decreases.
- B) The more extracurricular activities in which a student participates, the more likely the student will describe his or her school experience as positive.
- C) As an individual's income decreases, so does likelihood that he or she will vote.
- D) The higher an individual's score on a depression index, the more likely that he or she will attempt suicide.
- E) Students with GPAs below 2.0 will score lower on standardized tests (such as the SAT) than will students with GPAs above 3.0.

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

31. After data have been collected, researchers sometimes find patterns that are unexpected, but nonetheless surprising and exciting. These types of patterns are known as:

- A) Empirical
- B) Generalizable
- C) Descriptive
- D) Inductive
- *E) Serendipitous

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

32. Kai Erikson went to Buffalo Creek, West Virginia, in 1972 after a highly destructive flood. After interviewing residents and spending considerable time in Buffalo Creek, Erikson theorized that the damage to the social ties in the community caused by the flood were just as destructive as the physical damage to the community. Erikson's study is a good example of what kind of research?

- A) Descriptive
- B) Exploratory
- C) Explanatory
- D) Deductive
- *E) Inductive

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Application

33. Research that collects data at more than one point in time is called:

- *A) Longitudinal
- B) Cross-sectional
- C) Ideographic
- D) Nomothetic
- E) Inductive

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

34. Research that collects data at a single point in time is called:

- A) Descriptive
- *B) Cross-sectional
- C) Explanatory
- D) Longitudinal
- E) Cohort design

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

35. Panel studies are distinguished by which of the following designs?

- *A) Data are collected from individuals in the same room.
- B) Data are collected from the same individuals at multiple points in time.
- C) Data are collected at only one point in time.
- D) Data are collected from different samples in the same population.
- E) Data are collected from control and experimental groups.

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Application

36. Attrition in panel studies refers to which of the following?

- A) Over time, the population changes.
- B) Panel members begin to tire of repeated questioning and give thoughtless, stock answers during interviews.
- C) The process of sample selection must remain the same at time 1 and time 2.
- *D) Some members of the panel may drop out of the study.
- E) It is the process of reinterviewing a panel of informants at multiple points in time.

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Application

37. The Gallup Poll, which takes different samples from the U.S. population and asks them similar questions at different points in time, is a good example of which kind of research design?

- A) A panel study
- B) A fixed sample design
- C) A cohort study
- *D) A trend study
- E) An event-based design

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

38. A cohort has which of the following characteristics?

- A) Random selection from the general population
- *B) A common starting point
- C) Values or beliefs in common
- D) Inability to consent to participation in social research
- E) An occupational category in common

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

39. Most sociological and psychological studies use which unit of analysis?

- A) Institution
- B) Group
- C) Artifact
- D) Aggregate
- *E) Individual

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

40. Timothy conducted research on married couples and strain after the birth of their first child. He discovered that most the participants of the study stated that they did not experience any stress on their relationship after their first child. He then generalized his results by stating that strain in marriage is not caused by the birth of children. This assumption is an example of:

- A) Individualistic fallacy
- B) Amateur mistake
- C) Ecological fallacy
- *D) Reductionist fallacy
- E) Researcher error

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Application

41. A researcher is planning a study looking at first-year college students and their experiences at a four-year university. A sample of individuals from the first-year class is taken at Time 1 and data are gathered. A year passes and some participants leave the study. However, the researcher gathers data from the same people from the first time, minus those who left. This is an example of what kind of study?

A) Longitudinal study
*B) Panel design
C) Cohort study
D) Repeated cross-sectional design
E) Group study

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Application

42. According to the text, King, Keohane, and Verba (1994) asserted that social scientists evaluate research questions based on which of the following:

*A) Credibility.
B) Feasibility.
C) Social importance.
D) Scientific relevance.
E) All of the above are criteria for social research questions.

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Application

43. As an individual increases his or her intake of fatty foods, the individual's cholesterol levels steadily increase. This is an example of:

*A) Positive association
B) Negative association
C) No association
D) Increased association
E) Neutral association

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

44. Jack designed a research study that examined bullying among high school children, ages 12 to 17. After collecting survey data, he compared the percentages of how many children feel as though they are bullied on a daily basis across five different high schools in the area. What are his units of analysis?

A) Bullies
B) High school children
*C) The five different high schools
D) Children who are bullied
E) Teachers and administrators

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Application

45. Panel designs allow researchers to take a look at individuals' change over time. However, panel designs are difficult to complete due all to the following *except*:

A) Subject fatigue.
B) Attrition.
*C) Repetition.
D) Expense.
E) All of the above are problems pertaining to panel designs.

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: MC

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

46. What are the major advantages and disadvantages of using cross-sectional versus longitudinal research designs? What are the advantages and disadvantages of using panel, trend, and cohort longitudinal designs?

Answer: Cross-sectional design—all the data are collected at one point in time. Suffer from a serious weakness—they don't directly measure the impact of time. Longitudinal design—data are collected over time so that the researcher can determine whether change in the independent variable does in fact precede change in the dependent variable.

Weaknesses—collecting data more than once takes time and work, more time that researchers simply do not have. Trend design (repeated cross-sectional studies)—allows researchers to determine whether a population has changed over time. Panel design—allows clear identification of changes in the units of analysis over time. Serious weaknesses—expense, attrition, and subject fatigue. Cohort design—drawing different samples from the same population over time.

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: SA

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

47. How does descriptive research differ from inductive and deductive research? In what circumstances is descriptive research commonly found?

Answer: Both deductive and inductive research move halfway around the research circle, connecting theory with data. Descriptive research does not go that far. It starts with data and proceeds only to the stage of making empirical generalizations. It does not generate entire theories.

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: SA

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

48. Describe the research circle that connects social theory to data collection. What are the principle components of this research circle? Using an example of your own choosing, describe two research designs based on this circle: one using inductive logic and one using deductive logic. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each of these designs?

Answer: The research circle includes elements of the research process: theories, hypotheses, data collection, and data analysis. Deductive research starts with a social theory and tests implications with data. Inductive research begins with specific data, which are then used to develop a theory to account for the data. Inductive reasoning enters into deductive research when researchers find unexpected patterns in the data collected for testing a hypothesis. Anomalous patterns—unexpected patterns in data that do not seem to fit the theory being proposed. Serendipitous—unexpected patterns in data, which stimulate new ideas or theoretical approaches

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: SA

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

49. Chambliss states “the adequacy of an explanation formulated after the fact is necessarily less certain than an explanation presented prior to the collection of data” (p. 24). Explain in your own words what this statement means for students who will be conducting research of their own.

Answer: Inductive reasoning may produce anomalous or serendipitous patterns in the data; every phenomenon can always be explained in some way. Inductive explanations then are made more trustworthy if it is followed by deductive research; great insights and ideas can come from inductive studies, but verifiable proof comes from deductive research

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: SA

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

50. Propose four different research designs that study juvenile delinquency using cross-sectional designs, panel designs, repeated cross-sectional designs, and cohort designs.

Answer: Cross-sectional research design—a study in which data are collected at only one point in time. repeated cross-sectional design—a longitudinal study in which data are collected at two or more points in time from different samples of the same population. panel designs—a longitudinal study in which data are collected from the same individuals at two or more points in time. cohort design—a longitudinal study in which data are collected at two or more points in time from individuals in a cohort.

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: SA

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

51. To say that research questions should be both scientifically relevant and socially important is to recommend a balance between science for its own sake and science strictly to resolve social problems. In your opinion, which of these two criteria should be more important when formulating research questions, or are they both of equal importance? Justify your answer.

Answer: Scientifically relevant—knowledge for knowledge sake. Socially important—inform policy and help social organizations.

Answer Location: What Is the Question?

Question Type: SA

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

52. Discuss the research of Sherman and Berk (1984) on the effect of arrest on domestic abuse. What was their research hypothesis? What were their independent and dependent variables? Describe how their hypothesis was designed to test deterrence theory and labeling theory. For which theory did their hypothesis provide support?

Answer: The Sherman and Berk (1984) study of domestic violence was designed to test a hypothesis based on deterrence theory. Independent variable—arrest or release. Dependent variable—variation in the risk of repeat offenses. They tested their hypothesis by setting up an experiment in which the police responded to complaints of spouse abuse in one of three ways, one of which was to arrest the offender. They found that of those arrested for assaulting their spouse, only 13% repeated the offense, compared to a 26% recidivism rate for those who were separated from their spouse by the police but were not arrested. This pattern in the data was consistent with the hypothesis that the researchers deduced from deterrence theory. The theory thus received support from the experiment.

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: SA

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

53. Based on Sherman and Berk's (1984) study of the effect on arrest on domestic abuse, propose in separate paragraphs a deductive research project, an inductive research project, and a descriptive research project. Each proposal should build on the work of Sherman and Berk or the follow-up studies. Specify how each proposal would add to the research they conducted.

Answer: The Sherman and Berk (1984) study of domestic violence was designed to test a hypothesis based on deterrence theory. Independent variable—arrest or release. Dependent variable—variation in the risk of repeat offenses. Deductive research—the type of research in which a specific expectation is deduced from a general premise and is then tested. Inductive research—the type of reasoning that moves from the specific to the general. Descriptive research—starts with data and proceeds only to the stage of making empirical generalizations.

Answer Location: What Is the Strategy?

Question Type: SA

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

54. What is the difference between ecological fallacy and reductionist fallacy? Give an example of each.

Answer: Ecological fallacy—an error in reasoning in which incorrect conclusions about individual-level processes are drawn from group-level data. Reductionist fallacy (reductionism)—an error in reasoning that occurs when incorrect conclusions about group-level processes are based on individual level data.

Answer Location: What Is the Design?

Question Type: SA

Cognitive Domain: Application