

Chapter 2: How We Study the Family: Theories and Research Methods

Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. A researcher who incorporates parts of several different theories into his or her work is using _____.

- a. bioecological theory
- b. the scientific method
- c. an eclectic approach
- d. a structural-functionalist approach

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 2-1: Explain the importance of theoretical perspectives and summarize key theories that organize thinking and research on families. | 2-2: Discuss the tenets of the bioecological perspective, the key organizing framework of this book.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Theoretical Frameworks

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. Which term describes a series of steps a researcher must follow to ensure that the results of a study are valid?

- a. scientific validity
- b. scientific method
- c. scientific reliability
- d. scientific model

Ans: B

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Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Overview: The Need for Good Theory and Research Design

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. A therapist who considers the power structures, communication styles, and boundaries of each family member, as well as how they interact, is applying _____.

- a. bioecological theory
- b. family systems theory
- c. conflict theory
- d. structural-functionalism

Ans: B

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Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Family Systems Theory

Difficulty Level: Hard

4. A researcher working from a female deficit perspective would be likely to _____.

- a. consider the female experience to be pathological
- b. include both the male and female points of view
- c. view all experience from a conflict perspective
- d. emphasize patriarchy and oppression as causes of behavior

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2-1: Explain the importance of theoretical perspectives and summarize key theories that organize thinking and research on families. | 2-3: Explain the importance of careful design and implementation strategies for conducting research.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Feminist Theory

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Which the mental template we carry within us that defines both ourselves and others and guides our interactions?

- a. schema
- b. internal working model
- c. metanarrative
- d. cognitive domain

Ans: B

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Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Attachment Theory

Difficulty Level: Hard

6. The three levels of analysis in the bioecological model are _____.

- a. brain, body, microsystem
- b. gene, chromosome, body
- c. structure, function, process
- d. person, process, context

Ans: D

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Bioecological Model

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. In the bioecological model, the system of influence in which members of your immediate system interact with each other to affect your development is the _____.

- a. mesosystem
- b. microsystem
- c. exosystem
- d. macrosystem

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 2-1: Explain the importance of theoretical perspectives and summarize key theories that organize thinking and research on families. | 2-3: Explain the importance of careful design and implementation strategies for conducting research.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Processes and Contexts

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. Due to a recession, your partner has recently lost a job, which puts a severe strain on your family dynamics. This is an example of a(n) _____.

- a. mesosystem influence.
- b. microsystem influence.
- c. exosystem influence.
- d. macrosystem influence.

Ans: C

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Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Processes and Contexts

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. The first step in the scientific method is to _____.

- a. replicate a previous study
- b. choose an experimental model
- c. formulate a hypothesis
- d. formulate operational definitions

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 2-3: Explain the importance of careful design and implementation strategies for conducting research.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Research Methodology

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. The only way to determine causality is to _____.

- a. replicate a previous study
- b. perform a controlled experiment
- c. formulate a clear hypothesis
- d. formulate correct operational definitions

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2-3: Explain the importance of careful design and implementation strategies for conducting research.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Experimental Procedures

Difficulty Level: Medium

11. The independent variable in an experiment is the variable that is _____.

- a. manipulated in the study
- b. operationalized at the end of the study
- c. measured at the beginning of the study
- d. measured at the end of the study

Ans: A

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Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Variables

Difficulty Level: Easy

12. To perform a baseline assessment, a researcher would measure the _____.

- a. independent variable after performing the experiment
- b. independent variable before performing the experiment
- c. dependent variable after performing the experiment
- d. dependent variable before performing the experiment

Ans: D

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Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Experimental Design

Difficulty Level: Hard

13. Which group of people are similar to the larger population a researcher wants to study?

- a. random sample
- b. distributed sample
- c. purposeful sample
- d. representative sample

Ans: D

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conducting research.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Experimental Design

Difficulty Level: Hard

14. Experimental results that can be applied to a wide population are said to be _____.

- a. reliable
- b. valid
- c. representative
- d. generalizable

Ans: D

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Examining Results

Difficulty Level: Hard

15. To say that two variables are correlated means that _____.

- a. they are related in some way
- b. one variable causes the other
- c. one variable does not cause the other
- d. as one variable increases, the other decreases

Ans: A

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conducting research.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Correlational Procedures

Difficulty Level: Hard

16. An *etic approach* refers to a(n)_____.

- a. qualitative method
- b. quantitative method
- c. outsider's viewpoint
- d. insider's viewpoint

Ans: C

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Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Etic and Emic Approaches

Difficulty Level: Hard

17. The term *ethnicity* refers to a person's _____.

- a. physical appearance
- b. country of origin
- c. family structure
- d. cultural background

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 2-1: Explain the importance of theoretical perspectives and summarize key theories that organize thinking and research on families. | 2-5: Discuss the importance of demographic variables and intersectional identities on individual and family development.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Race and Ethnicity

Difficulty Level: Medium

18. Which term refers to a person's choice of intimate partners?

- a. mate selection
- b. attachment theory
- c. sexual orientation
- d. romantic attachment

Ans: C

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Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Sex, Gender, and Sexual Orientation

Difficulty Level: Easy

19. The term *social class* refers primarily to a person's _____.

- a. occupation
- b. wealth and income
- c. level of education
- d. race and ethnicity

Ans: B

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Social Class
Difficulty Level: Medium

20. How are ethnocentrism and heterosexism similar?
- a. Both make assumptions about what is right and normal.
 - b. Both rely on social class to make judgments about people.
 - c. Both are primarily associated with people of color.
 - d. Both are valid components of ethnographic research.

Ans: A

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Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Sex, Gender, and Sexual Orientation
Difficulty Level: Hard

True/False

1. Cross-sectional studies measure groups of people all at one point in time.

Ans: T

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Choosing a Research Time Frame
Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Longitudinal studies do not have as many problems as other studies do.

Ans: F

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Choosing a Research Time Frame
Difficulty Level: Medium

3. The benefits of a longitudinal study include a real developmental picture of change over time and the ability to assess the same people in a lot of depth.

Ans: T

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Choosing a Research Time Frame

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. Generalizability means that our experimental results must be narrowed to a small population of people.

Ans: F

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Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Examining Results

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. While nonexperimental procedures can tell us about many important variables related to family health and success, most research studies related to families are experimental in nature.

Ans: F

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Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Correlational Procedures

Difficulty Level: Hard

6. A natural or quasi-experiment is an experiment in which almost everything is controlled, except for the assignment to groups.

Ans: T

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Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Correlational Procedures

Difficulty Level: Hard

7. Most social science research is of this correlational nature (rather than controlled laboratory experiments).

Ans: T

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Correlational Procedures

Difficulty Level: Hard

8. With correlational results, we may consistently make inferences that causality is at play.

Ans: F

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Correlational Procedures

Difficulty Level: Hard

9. Quantitative research studies are those in which the phenomena under study have been turned into numbers.

Ans: T

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. If we want to understand variables from a more nuanced perspective, we might try to collect qualitative data.

Ans: T

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods

Difficulty Level: Medium

11. Quantitative data are usually gathered from open-ended questions or interviews which allow people to talk freely about the topic of interest.

Ans: F

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods

Difficulty Level: Medium

12. Many researchers in the social sciences use a quantitative approach called ethnography.

Ans: F

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Etic and Emic Approaches

Difficulty Level: Medium

13. An emic perspective is when a researcher is able to study his or her research question from an “inside” perspective, through the eyes of the inhabitants, their history, beliefs, and world view.

Ans: T

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Etic and Emic Approaches

Difficulty Level: Medium

14. Fortunately, qualitative data involve a great deal of control over extraneous variables.

Ans: F

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Etic and Emic Approaches

Difficulty Level: Medium

15. An ethnic characteristic is some trait the setting contains or the researcher possesses which may influence the study participant's responses.

Ans: F

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Demand Characteristics

Difficulty Level: Medium

16. Intersectional identity refers to the idea that individuals in families are completely unaffected by the interactions between our gender, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, religion, and social class, yet many believe this myth.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 2-5: Discuss the importance of demographic variables and intersectional identities on individual and family development.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Social Class

Difficulty Level: Hard

Short Answer

1. When we imitate or simulate real world conditions, we conduct this kind of experiment.

Ans: analog

Learning Objective: 2-3: Explain the importance of careful design and implementation strategies for conducting research. | 2-4: Identify the basic steps and techniques used in the scientific method.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Experimental Procedures

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. What certainty that one variable causes a specific outcome or change in the other variable?

Ans: causality

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Experimental Procedures

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. These are carefully controlled studies in which the researcher manipulates the participants' experiences.

Ans: experiments

Learning Objective: 2-1: Explain the importance of theoretical perspectives and summarize key theories that organize thinking and research on families. | 2-3: Explain the importance of careful design and implementation strategies for conducting research.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Experimental Procedures

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Which variable is operationally defined and then manipulated in the experiment?

Ans: independent variable

Learning Objective: 2-1: Explain the importance of theoretical perspectives and summarize key theories that organize thinking and research on families. | 2-3: Explain the importance of careful design and implementation strategies for conducting research.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Variables

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Which variable we measure at the end of the study?

Ans: dependent variable

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Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Variables

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. A technique that is invaluable for making sure our experiment is highly controlled is known as _____.

Ans: random assignment

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Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Experimental Design

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. Which group doesn't receive the experimental manipulation?

Ans: control group

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Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Experimental Design

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. Which group receives the experimental manipulation?

Ans: experimental group

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Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Experimental Design

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. In this type of assessment, we measure the dependent variable *before* we do the experiment.

Ans: baseline

Learning Objective: 2-1: Explain the importance of theoretical perspectives and summarize key theories that organize thinking and research on families. | 2-3: Explain the importance of careful design and implementation strategies for conducting research.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Experimental Design

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. The type of study in which we follow the same people over a long period of time is known as a(n) _____.

Ans: longitudinal

Learning Objective: 2-1: Explain the importance of theoretical perspectives and summarize key theories that organize thinking and research on families. | 2-3: Explain the importance of careful design and implementation strategies for conducting research.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Choosing a Research Time Frame

Difficulty Level: Medium

Essay

1. Explain the relationship between Communist theory and structural-functionalism.

Ans: According to Communist theory, conflict always exists between groups with less power and groups with more power. Structural-functionalism accepts this view of society and argues that social groups, such as families, have an established structure that allows them to function as a cohesive whole. Families and societies continue the same structure and functioning over time because there is an equilibrium, or interdependence,

between the parts. However, sometimes these conflicts lead to revolutions so the structure or function is forced to change. This is true in both societies and families.

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Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Structural–Functionalism

Difficulty Level: Hard

2. Explain the gradual development of attachment theory and the various strands that make up the theory.

Ans: Attachment theory's founder, John Bowlby, was a psychoanalyst trained in the Freudian tradition, which emphasizes the influence of early childhood experiences on adult personality as well as the importance of the unconscious mind. Another important influence is ethology, which studies animals to draw conclusions about humans. For example, non-human primates cling to their caregivers for safety. Studies of children in orphanages suggest that affection is as important as food and shelter for normal development. Evolutionary theory shows that adults and infants are naturally inclined to bond. The internal working model is an unconscious mental template developed in childhood that directs our attention and influences our adult relationships.

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Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Attachment Theory

Difficulty Level: Hard

3. Explain the difference between correlation and causality.

Ans: Correlation means that two variables are related, not that one causes the other. Causation means that one variable causes the other. Causation can be determined only through a controlled experiment. Most social science research is correlational in nature so we cannot make causal assumptions when relationships between variables are found.

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Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Correlations Versus Causal Inferences

Difficulty Level: Hard

4. Define demand characteristics and explain how they can influence the results of a study. Give at least one specific example.

Ans: Demand characteristics are traits of the setting or the researcher that may influence the study participant's responses. For example, the room may be too hot, which may make the respondent uncomfortable, or the researcher may be sexually attractive, which may distract the respondent.

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Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Demand Characteristics

Difficulty Level: Hard