

Appendix

DESCRIBING RELATIONSHIPS WITH CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS

Multiple-Choice Questions

- 1. You read in a professional magazine that the correlation between test anxiety and classroom test performance is $-.30$. You should conclude that:
 - a. students who have high test anxiety perform at higher levels on classroom tests, almost without exception.
 - b. students who have low test anxiety perform at higher levels on classroom tests, almost without exception.
 - c. students who have high test anxiety perform at higher levels on classroom tests, but with many students being exceptions to the rule.
 - d. students who have low test anxiety perform at higher levels on classroom tests, but with many students being exceptions to the rule.
- 2. According to the research, the relationship between academic achievement and self-determination (i.e., the amount choice and personal control over one's environment) is both positive and strong. However, researchers doing work in your classroom found a correlation of $-.15$ between the number of student choices and grades. You should conclude that:
 - a. the classroom research is incorrect.
 - b. there is a low negative correlation in the classroom research.
 - c. removing student choices will help improve students' grades.
 - d. increasing student choices will help improve students' grades.
- 3. You read in a professional magazine that, in one research study, researchers obtained a correlation of $-.50$ between the amounts of time that college students study and the course grades that they earn. You should conclude that:
 - a. studying helps students earn higher grades.
 - b. studying interferes with students' class performance.
 - c. students who study more get higher grades.
 - d. students who study more get lower grades.

- 4. When analyzing the data she has collected for a research project, a researcher computes a correlation coefficient of +32.9 between self-esteem and classroom performance. The researcher should definitely conclude that:
 - a. there is a high positive correlation between self-esteem and classroom performance.
 - b. there is a low positive correlation between self-esteem and classroom performance.
 - c. one variable causes the other (although she does not know in which direction the cause-effect relationship goes).
 - d. she has made an error in her calculations.

ANSWER KEY

Multiple-Choice Questions

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| 1. d | 2. b | 3. d | 4. d |
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