

Chapter 2

Multiple Choice Questions

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_____ research is conducted to generate knowledge for the sake of knowledge, without being concerned whether the knowledge generated is useful.

- a. Action
- b. Applied
- c. Basic
- d. Evaluation

ANSWER: C

Dr. von Trapp is conducting research to test a hypothesis that she believes extends and clarifies Baddeley's theory of working memory. Which category describes her research?

- a. Action
- b. Applied
- c. Basic
- d. Evaluation

ANSWER: C

_____ research is conducted to find a solution to a problem that is affecting some aspect of society.

- a. Action
- b. Applied
- c. Basic
- d. Evaluation

ANSWER: B

Dr. Martin is conducting research on ways to increase the reading level of third graders in his local public school system. His research is best described as

- a. Applied
- b. Qualitative
- c. Basic
- d. Mixed model

ANSWER: A

_____ research is conducted to determine the effectiveness of behavioral science interventions.

- a. Action
- b. Applied
- c. Basic
- d. Evaluation

ANSWER: D

Compared to basic research, applied research is more likely to

- a. be narrow in scope.
- b. be conducted in natural settings.
- c. use non-experimental research methods
- d. do all of the above

ANSWER: D

Which of the following statements about basic and applied research is TRUE?

- a. Theory plays no role in applied research.
- b. Basic research can often provide information about social problems.
- c. Basic research is conducted only in laboratory settings.
- d. Applied research tends to be broad in scope, focusing on general principles of behavior.

ANSWER: B

Dr. Truax has developed an intervention program designed to increase safe-sex practices among college students. During the three-week program, students complete online modules about safe sex, attend discussion sections, and keep a diary of their sexual activity. The results are compared to a set of success criteria that the college administrators have identified. Dr. Truax's research is an example of

- a. evaluation research.
- b. basic research.
- c. action research.
- d. qualitative research.

ANSWER: A

_____ research involves the systematic integration of theory, application, and evaluation.

- a. Action
- b. Applied
- c. Basic
- d. Evaluation

ANSWER: A

Compared to basic researchers, in developing their research project, action researchers are more likely to

- a. adopt a value-free perspective on their research topic.
- b. directly involve people who are affected by the outcome of their research.
- c. discount the usefulness of theory as a guide to their research question.
- d. do all of the above

ANSWER: B

Which of the following is NOT a theme that describes the purpose of action research?

- a. Action researchers believe social change cannot be accomplished by conducting research.
- b. The best action research is firmly grounded in social science theory.
- c. Action researchers should be guided by their personal values.
- d. Action researchers must trust that people might know their own lives and interests better than the researchers do.

ANSWER: A

Action research can be described as

- a. low in construct validity.
- b. messy and complex.
- c. atheoretical
- d. all of the above

ANSWER: B

Which type of research is MOST likely to directly involve people who are affected by its outcome?

- a. evaluation
- b. applied
- c. action
- d. mixed methods

ANSWER: C

Compared to qualitative researchers, QUANTITATIVE researchers are more likely to

- a. try to maximize external validity.
- b. focus on understanding how people experience and interpret events in their lives.
- c. study behavior outside of its natural context.
- d. view the researcher's experience as part of the data for a study.

ANSWER: C

Compared to qualitative researchers, QUANTITATIVE researchers are more likely to

- a. try to maximize ecological validity.
- b. focus on the average behavior of people in a population.
- c. study behavior in its natural context.
- d. focus on individual experience.

ANSWER: B

Compared to quantitative researchers, QUALITATIVE researchers are more likely to

- a. study behavior as it naturally occurs.
- b. focus on identifying cause-and-effect relationships among variables.
- c. try to maximize internal validity.
- d. focus on the average behavior of people in a population.

ANSWER: A

Compared to quantitative researchers, QUALITATIVE researchers are more likely to

- a. study behavior in a laboratory setting.
- b. focus on identifying cause-and-effect relationships among variables.
- c. try to maximize internal validity.
- d. focus on understanding how people experience and interpret events in their lives.

ANSWER: D

Which of the following issues is/are of concern to BOTH qualitative and quantitative researchers?

- a. validity
- b. generalizability
- c. ethics
- d. all of the above

ANSWER: D

Compared to researchers who adhere to the humanistic epistemology, those who adhere to the logical positivist epistemology are MORE likely to

- a. conduct quantitative research.
- b. use the experimental research strategy.
- c. try to maximize the internal validity of their research.
- d. do all of the above.

ANSWER: D

_____ research designs integrate both qualitative and quantitative data.

- a. Action
- b. Mixed method
- c. Cohort-sequential
- d. Synthesized

ANSWER: B

Researchers should consider a mixed methods research design if

- a. they are asking several unrelated questions.
- b. the results of both methods are expected to produce convergent findings.
- c. each of the two approaches being considered addresses different aspects of the research question.
- d. all of the above

ANSWER: C

A strong mixed method design can be created by

- a. adding one or two qualitative questions to a quantitative design.
- b. getting input from the people who are most affected by the question of interest.
- c. ensuring that neither of the approaches used has easily identifiable weaknesses.
- d. looking for two research strategies that will produce divergent findings.

ANSWER: D

One of the criteria of causality is covariation of the cause and effect. The experimental research strategy meets this criterion

- a. through manipulation of the independent variable.
- b. by holding variables other than the independent variable constant.
- c. when it finds an effect of the independent variable on the dependent variable.
- d. through reliable measurement of the dependent variable.

ANSWER: C

One of the criteria of causality is time precedence of the cause and effect. The experimental research strategy meets this criterion

- a. through manipulation of the independent variable before measuring the dependent variable.
- b. by holding variables other than the independent variable constant.
- c. when it finds an effect of the independent variable on the dependent variable.
- d. through reliable measurement of the dependent variable.

ANSWER: A

One of the criteria of causality is being able to eliminate alternative explanations for the effect of the independent variable. The experimental research strategy meets this criterion

- a. through manipulation of the independent variable.
- b. by holding variables other than the independent variable constant.
- c. when it finds an effect of the independent variable on the dependent variable.
- d. through reliable measurement of the dependent variable

ANSWER: B

Among the disadvantages of the experimental research strategy is/are

- a. lack of naturalism.
- b. personality variables cannot be manipulated and so cannot be studied experimentally.
- c. it is unethical to manipulate some variables, so those variables cannot be studied experimentally.
- d. all of the above.

ANSWER: D

Professor Sokolov conducted an experiment and found that younger people had significantly poorer sleep quality than older people. Based on the results, she can conclude that

- a. sleep quality is related to age.
- b. the sleep quality of any individual person can be reliably predicted by her or his age.
- c. there is a causal relationship between participant age and sleep quality.
- d. sleep quality declines with age.

ANSWER: A

Among the advantages of the case study research strategy is/are

- a. naturalism.
- b. the ability to study rarely occurring phenomena.
- c. the ability to gain the participants' point of view on the research topic.
- d. all of the above.

ANSWER: D

Among the disadvantages of the case study research strategy is/are

- a. an inability to determine cause-and-effect relationships.
- b. lack of generalizability.
- c. vulnerability to researcher bias.
- d. all of the above.

ANSWER: D

In which choice below are all three concepts related to one another?

- a. humanistic epistemology, idiographic approach to research, use of the case study research strategy
- b. humanistic epistemology, nomothetic approach to research, use of the experimental research strategy
- c. logical positivist epistemology, idiographic approach to research, use of the experimental research strategy
- d. logical positivist epistemology, nomothetic approach to research, use of the case study research strategy

ANSWER: A

H.M. was a man who underwent a surgery that removed part of his medial temporal lobe. After the surgery, he was unable to form new long-term memories. Researchers studied H.M extensively over the next 50 years. These studies illustrate which purpose of case study research?

- a. investigating rarely occurring phenomena
- b. discovery of overlooked behaviors
- c. understanding people's everyday experiences
- d. all of the above

ANSWER: A

Researchers who use the _____ approach try to formulate general principles of behavior that will apply to most people most of the time.

- a. idiographic
- b. cohort-sequential
- c. nomothetic
- d. actuarial prediction

ANSWER: C

Professor Rhydon wants to know what will work best for each individual client. He is MOST likely to be interested in research that takes a(n) _____ approach to conducting psychotherapy research.

- a. idiographic
- b. cohort-sequential
- c. nomothetic
- d. correlational

ANSWER: A

Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of the correlational research strategy?

- a. It takes a quantitative approach to data.
- b. It involves manipulating an independent variable.
- c. It involves a nomothetic approach to research.
- d. It is sometimes referred to as the passive research strategy.

ANSWER: B

The correlational research strategy can be used when the experimental strategy cannot. This is, because the correlational strategy can be used to study

- a. variables, such as personality, that cannot be manipulated.

- b. variables, such as extreme stress, that it would be unethical to manipulate.
- c. both a and b.
- d. neither a nor b.

ANSWER: C

The correlational research strategy is able to meet which of the criteria for causality?

- a. covariation of proposed cause and effect
- b. time precedence of the cause
- c. ability to rule out alternative explanations
- d. both a and b

ANSWER: A

Professor Radetzky found a significant positive correlation between the amount of violent television programming children watch and how aggressive the children are. He concludes that watching violent television programming causes children to become aggressive. The problem with Professor Radetzky's conclusion is that

- a. causality might go the other way: being aggressive might dispose children to watch violent television programming.
- b. there might be a third variable—such as how the children's parents' behave—that might be a cause of both the amount of violent television programming the children watch and how aggressive they are.
- c. both a and b
- d. neither a nor b; that is, there is no problem with Professor Radetzky's conclusion.

ANSWER: C

The term actuarial prediction refers to

- a. formulating hypotheses to be tested in experimental research.
- b. using correlational data to predict future outcomes
- c. using the results of correlational studies as sources of hypotheses for experimental research.
- d. using research results to modify and improve theories and the predictions made by theories.

ANSWER: B

In the formula $Y = a + bX$, X is

- a. the predicted score.
- b. a constant.
- c. the score being used to predict the variable of interest.
- d. the slope of the regression line.

ANSWER: C

Professor Li conducts a study of the relationship between college students' levels of sex guilt and their levels of sexual activity. She finds that respondents low in sex guilt report significantly higher levels of sexual activity than those high in sex guilt. Which of the following processes could explain these findings?

- a. High sex guilt inhibits sexual activity.
- b. Engaging in high levels of sexual activity reduces sex guilt.

- c. Some unmeasured third variable causes both increases in sexual activity and decreases in sex guilt.
- d. Any of the above could be explanations.

ANSWER: D

If your research goal is to determine the causes of behavior, the best research strategy to use is

- a. experimental.
- b. correlational.
- c. case study.
- d. longitudinal.

ANSWER: A

Researcher bias is most likely to occur in _____ research.

- a. experimental
- b. correlational
- c. case study
- d. longitudinal

ANSWER: C

If your research goal is to maximize the naturalism, the best research strategy to use is

- a. experimental.
- b. correlational.
- c. case study.
- d. cohort-sequential.

ANSWER: C

You conduct a study in which male and female research participants work on word puzzles. Half of the participants are told the puzzles are easy and half are told that the puzzles are hard. You find that women solve more puzzles than do men. You also find that people solve more puzzles when they are told they are easy rather than hard. Both differences are statistically significant.

Thus, you could correctly conclude that

- a. gender of research participant caused differences in performance.
- b. giving different information about puzzle difficulty causes differences in performance.
- c. both a and b.
- d. neither a nor b

ANSWER: B

_____ research investigates age differences in phenomena by comparing groups of people who are of different ages at the same point in time.

- a. Cross-sectional
- b. Longitudinal
- c. Cohort-sequential
- d. Prospective

ANSWER: A

_____ research investigates age differences in phenomena by studying the same group of people over time.

- a. Cross-sectional
- b. Longitudinal
- c. Cohort-sequential
- d. Prospective

ANSWER: B

_____ research investigates age differences in phenomena by starting to collect data from an additional group of participants every time an assessment is made.

- a. Cross-sectional
- b. Longitudinal
- c. Cohort-sequential
- d. Prospective

ANSWER: C

In longitudinal research, the term _____ refers to the number of people who drop out of the study over time.

- a. actuarial dropout
- b. attrition
- c. reactivity
- d. sequencing

ANSWER: B

You entered your graduate program last year; nine other students began graduate study at the same time. Your group is best described as

- a. a cohort.
- b. a target population
- c. idiographic.
- d. all of the above

ANSWER: A

_____ research investigates the relationship between scores on an independent variable at one point in time and scores on a dependent variable at a later point in time.

- a. Cross-sectional
- b. Longitudinal
- c. Cohort-sequential
- d. Prospective

ANSWER: D

Cohort effects represent

- a. the influences that people in a social group (such as a fraternity or sorority) have on each others' behavior.
- b. similarities in behavior among people born during a given period of time that differ from behaviors among people born at a different period of time.
- c. changes in a phenomenon over time that are caused by natural aging or maturation processes.

d. average group differences in behavior; for example, on average men are more aggressive than women.

ANSWER: B

Which of the following processes can cause difficulty in interpreting the results of a longitudinal study?

- a. participants' dropping out of the study as time goes by
- b. asking a question about a behavior might affect later instances of that behavior
- c. events external to the study that are related to the study's topic might affect the behavior of study participants
- d. all of the above

ANSWER: D

_____ effects are events external to the study that are related to the study's topic that might affect the behavior of study participants.

- a. Cohort
- B. Attrition
- C. History
- D. Reactivity

ANSWER: C

A researcher presents children in the 1st, 5th, and 9th grades with moral dilemmas and uses a valid system to determine their level of moral development. The researcher collects all of his data during September of this year and examines differences in mean level of moral development across grade level. This researcher is using the _____ approach to developmental research.

- a. longitudinal
- b. cohort-sequential
- c. cross-sectional
- d. prospective

ANSWER: C

A researcher interested in moral development recruits children in the 1st grade for a study of moral development. She presents the children with moral dilemmas and uses a valid system to determine their level of moral development. The researcher tests the same students again each year until they are in the 9th grade. This researcher is using the _____ approach to developmental research.

- a. longitudinal
- b. cohort-sequential
- c. cross-sectional
- d. prospective

ANSWER: A

An investigator wants to know whether allowing children to use electronic devices at age 3 will predict their reading scores at age 6. Her question is best answered with a(n) _____ research design.

- a. prospective

- b. retrospective
- c. case study
- d. actuarial

ANSWER: A

Which of the following problems can emerge in prospective research?

- a. attrition
- b. testing effects
- c. history effects
- d. all of the above

ANSWER: D

If you are conducting an outcome evaluation, what is the minimum number of occasions that you must use to evaluate the treatment's effectiveness?

- a. two
- b. three
- c. four
- d. five

ANSWER: B

You are conducting an outcome evaluation. It is NOT necessary to include which of the following evaluations?

- a. pretest prior to treatment
- b. entering treatment
- c. end of treatment
- d. follow-up after treatment

ANSWER: A

Which of the following statements about the relationship between research strategies and research is/are TRUE?

- a. Experimental research can be carried out only in a laboratory setting.
- b. Correlational research can be carried out in either a laboratory or a field setting.
- c. Any research strategy can be used in any research setting.
- d. Both a and b, but not c.

ANSWER: C

The term target population refers to

- a. the people who serve as participants in a research study.
- b. the people to whom a researcher wants the results of his or her research to apply.
- c. the people who happen to be available in a setting at the time a research study is conducted.
- d. participants selected by random sampling.

ANSWER: B

The term convenience sample refers to

- a. any people who serve as participants in a research study.
- b. people selected to participate in research through random sampling.

- c. people who happen to be available as participants in a setting at the time a research study is conducted.
- d. people who volunteer to participate in research.

ANSWER: C

A researcher's decision about which group of people to use as research participants affects the _____ of the researcher's study.

- a. generalizability
- b. statistical conclusion validity
- c. construct validity
- d. internal validity

ANSWER: A

No research study can ever be perfectly designed because

- a. most researchers are not sufficiently competent in designing research.
- b. ethical rules limit the ways in which researchers can design their studies.
- c. the availability of funding limits the ways in which researchers can design their studies.
- d. any research design is a result of trade-offs among desirable characteristics.

ANSWER: D

To maximize confidence in the results of their research, researchers should

- a. only conduct experiments.
- b. only conduct research in natural settings.
- c. avoid using college students as research participants.
- d. conduct multiple tests of hypotheses using different research strategies, settings, and populations.

ANSWER: D