

Chapter 2 Exam Questions

SHORT ANSWER

1. How does the scientific method used to study gender rest on empiricism?

Empiricism is the idea that data are gathered through one's senses. With the scientific method, data are collected and analyzed to make statements. These statements are used to develop theories and generate hypotheses

2. Can correlation imply causation? Why or why not?

Correlation cannot imply causation. Correlation can only show a relationship between two variables, but cannot claim that one variable causes the other. Because both variables are assessed at the same time, it is not clear which variable is the cause and which variable is the effect. There also is the possibility of the presence of a third variable affecting the variables being measured.

3. Why are the concepts of random selection and random assignment important?

Random selection ensures that every member of the population has an equal chance of being a participant in order to make the study generalizable to the population being studied. Random assignment gives each participant an equal chance of being assigned to each condition so that the groups within each condition are comparable to the others, except in terms of the independent variable.

4. What is the difference between a subject variable and a target variable?

A subject variable refers to a characteristic of the person as the independent variable and is usually used in correlational studies. A target variable is a characteristic of something to which people react to and is usually used in experimental studies.

5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of both the correlational method and the experimental method?

The advantage of the correlational method is external validity, as correlational studies can be conducted in real-world settings. The disadvantage is low internal validity; the cause and effect cannot be determined because the variables are measured at the same time.

The advantage of the experimental method is high internal validity. In other words, a causal relationship can be established. However, the disadvantage is that there is low external validity because most experiments are conducted in a laboratory setting which does not reflect real-world scenarios.

6. How can an experimenter's beliefs lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy and how can this be avoided?

The experimenter's beliefs can influence how he or she acts towards participants, which in turn affects how participants respond to the experimenter. The participants respond in a way that confirms the experimenter's beliefs. This can be avoided by making the experimenter "blind" to the hypothesis of the study, so he or she will not be able to influence participants in any way.

7. How can participants affect the outcomes of a study?

Demand characteristics suggest that there are expectations about how a participant should behave in an experiment, causing participants to either conform or react to these expectations. In addition, participants can fall victim to the social desirability response bias, in which they respond in a way they believe to be socially desirable.

8. What is the difference between a mediator variable and a moderator variable? Give an example of each.

A mediator explains the relation between the IV and the DV. A moderator alters the relation between the IV and the DV.

9. What was innovative about the BSRI and the PAQ scales?

Instead of classifying participants as either masculine or feminine like previous scales, these scales contain separate measures of masculinity and femininity. That is, every participant receives a masculinity score as well as a femininity score, acknowledging that people may display both masculine and feminine traits.

10. What is the difference between someone who is sex-typed versus someone who is cross sex-typed?

Someone who is sex-typed is behaving in a way that is consistent with the expectations for their gender role group (e.g., a female who is feminine). Someone is cross sex-typed when they behave in a way that is inconsistent with their gender role group (e.g., a female who is masculine).

11. Explain the concepts of unmitigated agency and unmitigated communion.

The unmitigated orientations were created in order to provide a way to measure the undesirable aspects of masculinity and femininity. Unmitigated agency is made up of statements conveying a tendency to focus on the self to the neglect of others. Unmitigated communion is made up of statements conveying a tendency to focus on others to the neglect or exclusion of the self.

12. What is gender-role strain and what are the two theories of gender-role strain?

Gender-role strain is when one's gender-role expectations have negative consequences for that individual. It is likely to occur when one's behavior or desires do not meet society's gender-role expectations.

The first theory is called "self-role discrepancy theory" which states that gender-role strain is a result of an individual failing to live up to society's conceptions of gender roles. The second theory is called "socialized dysfunctional characteristic theory" which explains that society has created gender roles that contain inherently dysfunctional personality characteristics, or traits that are not healthy or adaptive.

13. What are the traits defining hegemonic masculinity?

Heterosexuality

Aggressive

Non-emotional

Non-feminine

Physical/intellectual strength and supremacy

14. What is precarious masculinity?

It is the idea that masculinity is easily won and easily lost. When men's masculinity is threatened, they behave in traditionally masculine ways to restore it.

15. Do you believe that gender roles are more rigid for women or men in our society? Why?

16. What were the conclusions of each historical period in gender studies?

No sex difference was found in intelligence between men and women

Healthy men are masculine, healthy women are feminine

Androgyny (having both strong masculine as well as feminine traits) is healthiest

Social norms associated with gender roles are also associated with gender-role strain

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which of the following is not an example of a scientific theory?
 - a. The social role theory
 - b. Intelligent design**
 - c. The theory of relativity
 - d. The theory of evolution
2. What is one way the experimenter can influence the results of a study?
 - a. The design of the study
 - b. Participant selection
 - c. Data collection
 - d. All of the above**
3. Which is a way to reduce demand characteristics?
 - a. Asking questions that encourage socially desirable answers
 - b. Keeping the experimenter's sex constant
 - c. Make participant responses private and confidential**
 - d. All of the above
4. One disadvantage of laboratory studies is:
 - a. Low internal validity
 - b. Low external validity**
 - c. High internal validity
 - d. Presence of confounding variables
5. What is the best way to describe the following study:

A scientist wants to better understand the relationship between gender-role strain and physical health. Participants are rated on gender-role strain using a reputable scale and then given a health questionnaire every other month for a year. It was found that an increase in gender-role strain is associated with a decrease in physical health.

 - a. Cross-sectional experimental
 - b. Longitudinal field experiment
 - c. Longitudinal correlational**
 - d. Cross-sectional correlational
6. What is the independent variable in the study in question 5?
 - a. Physical health
 - b. Gender-role strain**

- c. Sex
 - d. How closely the participant sex matches their gender role
7. What is the dependent variable in the study in question 5?
- a. Physical health
 - b. Gender-role strain
 - c. Sex
 - d. How closely the participant sex matches their gender role
8. In a study comparing testosterone with aggression levels, it is later realized that some of the participants had been watching a wrestling match on the waiting room prior to measuring their baseline testosterone levels. This may have affected their baseline result. What is this called?
- a. Conflicting condition
 - b. Control
 - c. Confounding variable**
 - d. Cohort effects
9. If increased levels of testosterone lead to increased levels of aggression, this a _____ correlation.
- a. Perfect
 - b. Zero
 - c. Negative
 - d. Positive**
10. Which of the following is NOT part of female gender-role strain?
- a. Fear of success**
 - b. Fear of victimization
 - c. Fear of physical unattractiveness
 - d. Fear of not being nurturing
11. Which of the following statements regarding random selection is true?
- a. Random selection is not that important to external validity
 - b. Random selection is fairly easy to achieve
 - c. Participant pools at universities are a good way to achieve random selection
 - d. Random selection is difficult to achieve and rarely employed**
12. Which of the following correlation coefficients indicates the strongest association between two variables?
- a. +0.50

- b. -0.02
- c. -0.89**
- d. +0.74

13. What is the best way to eliminate potential confounding variables?

- a. Random assignment**
- b. Random selection
- c. Assigning a subject variable
- d. Designing a cross-sectional study

14. Which of the following has the highest internal and external validity?

- a. Correlational study
- b. Experimental study
- c. Field experiment**
- d. Longitudinal study

15. What is the purpose of meta-analysis?

- a. Change a study from correlational to experimental
- b. Change a study from experimental to correlational
- c. Eliminate experimenter and participant effects
- d. Synthesize the findings of multiple studies**

16. Research is typically correlational when sex is a _____ and experimental when sex is a _____.

- a. Target variable, subject variable
- b. Subject variable, target variable**
- c. Independent variable, dependent variable
- d. Dependent variable, independent variable

17. Which is a good way to eliminate a self-fulfilling prophecy from occurring in an experiment?

- a. Random assignment
- b. Controlling for cohort effects vs. age effects
- c. Using an experimenter who is blind to the purpose of the study**
- d. Decreasing sample size

18. Which of the following was a weakness of the M/F scales:

- a. Homosexual men were equated to feminine women
- b. The tests did not distinguish between levels of masculinity or femininity
- c. All scales were bipolar

d. All of the above

19. Which scales are most commonly used to measure masculinity and femininity today?

a. The BSRI and PAQ

b. The MMPI and the BSRI

c. The MMPI and the PAQ

d. The M/F scale and the MMPI

20. What is the Implicit Association Test based on?

a. Instrumental vs. expressive orientations

b. Androgyny

c. Gender roles

d. Reaction times

21. Which of the following best matches someone classified as androgynous:

a. High number of masculine traits, low number of feminine traits

b. Low number of masculine traits, low number of feminine traits

c. High number of masculine traits, high number of feminine traits

d. Low number of masculine traits, high number of feminine traits

22. How do social constructionists view gender?

a. Gender is on a bipolar plane, either masculine or feminine

b. Gender is made up of two independent dimensions, everyone has a measure of masculinity and femininity

c. Gender is the cause of an interaction

d. Gender is the effect of an interaction

23. Which of the following is true about hegemonic masculinity:

a. The main goal is to legitimize male dominance

b. Most men display this form of masculinity

c. It is not commonly seen in the media

d. It is accepting of other forms of masculinity

24. Which of the following is NOT a health or relational outcome of male gender-role strain?

a. Increased sexual aggression

b. Less positive attitudes towards condoms

c. Greater emotionality

d. Less relationship satisfaction