

Multiple Choice Exam Questions for *Research Methods and Society* 3/e

Chapter 1

1. Which of the following describe a scientific approach to learning?
 - a. avoiding overgeneralization
 - b. subjecting findings to public scrutiny
 - c. making public a written record of findings
 - d. all of the above (a, b, c)
2. Comparison is important in social research because
 - a. much research makes comparisons designed to test an “if ... then” statement.
 - b. values of the dependent variable that differ among categories of the independent variable imply some idea about causality, which requires comparison.
 - c. an “if ... then” comparison generally indicates the possibility of a cause-and-effect relationship.
 - d. all of the above (a, b, c).
3. Science learning extends everyday learning because science learning
 - a. pays much greater extensive attention to producing valid and reliable measurements.
 - b. pays close attention to control of competing explanations for what seem to be causal relationships.
 - c. subjects its findings to “peer review.”
 - d. all of the above (a, b, c).
4. Which example in chapter 1 does not contain an “if ... then” comparison?
 - a. proximity of schools and use of contraception
 - b. drugs on campus
 - c. sticky theory beliefs about the death penalty
 - d. all contain an “if ... then” comparison.
5. Sticky theory suggests
 - a. that people tend to retain their existing beliefs despite compelling evidence to the contrary.
 - b. the value of skepticism as a strong norm in science.
 - c. that everyone holds tightly to ideas and refuses to acknowledge contrary evidence at least sometimes.
 - d. all of the above (a, b, c).

Chapter 2

1. Reason(s) why a researcher should inform potential participants that they would be research subjects include(s)
 - a. it supports the norm of informed consent.
 - b. not announcing the research activity can influence the objectivity of the observer.
 - c. not disclosing one’s identity as a participant in a research activity can affect the activities of the subjects.
 - d. all of the above (a, b, c)

2. Anonymity means that the researcher
 - a. does not know the identity of the respondents.
 - b. knows respondents' identities but does not reveal any information about them.
 - c. keeps their information private and secret.
 - d. all of the above (a, b, c).
3. Results of the long-term *Fisher Folk* observational study by Carolyn Ellis show that
 - a. there are risks and benefits from not keeping respondents fully informed when included in a research study.
 - b. the American Sociological Association realized the need for stringent new guidelines about professional conduct in the field.
 - c. both a and b.
 - d. neither a nor b.
4. The textbook excerpt about the study described in *Tearoom Trade* by Laud Humphreys reveals that
 - a. respondents who later find out that they were used for research without their knowledge can have strong negative reactions to the results.
 - b. the American Sociological Association realized the need for stringent new guidelines about professional conduct in the field.
 - c. both a and b.
 - d. neither a nor b.
5. *The Belmont Report* identifies which of the following ethical principles?
 - a. beneficence
 - b. respect for persons
 - c. justice
 - d. all of these (a, b, c)

Chapter 3

Topic 1: Effect of school pregnancy-prevention clinics on students' attitudes toward contraception.

1. In Topic 1 the independent variable is:
 - a. pregnancy-prevention clinics in schools
 - b. students' attitudes toward contraception
 - c. effect of school on students
 - d. not enough information provided to determine the independent variable
2. In Topic 1 the dependent variable is:
 - a. pregnancy-prevention clinics in schools
 - b. students' attitudes toward contraception
 - c. effect of school on students
 - d. not enough information provided to determine the dependent variable

3. Based on Topic 1, a testable hypothesis is:
 - a. Schools have effects on students' attitudes.
 - b. Students' attitudes affect whether or not a school has a pregnancy-prevention clinic.
 - c. There are schools where students lack pregnancy-prevention clinics.
 - d. None of these hypotheses (a, b, c) is testable as stated.
4. According to the textbook, why can we reject a hypothesis but never "prove" a hypothesis?
 - a. A hypothesis about causation projects into the future so there is no way to verify it conclusively.
 - b. Relationships among social variables are imperfect, so it is possible to contradict a hypothesis.
 - c. Both a and b
 - d. Neither a nor b
5. It is important to know the types of measures used in a study because the type of measures
 - a. determines the statistical procedures that can be undertaken.
 - b. determines whether an ethics committee must evaluate the research proposal.
 - c. both a and b.
 - d. neither a nor b.
6. An IRB (or research ethics committee, or research ethics board) examines research proposals to look for
 - a. problems with stated hypothesis(es).
 - b. adequate sample size and use of appropriate measurement of variables.
 - c. potentially harmful impacts on subjects.
 - d. all of the above (a, b, c).
7. A "control" variable is used to
 - a. test the relationship between two variables of interest.
 - b. reduce the likelihood of misinterpreting a spurious relationship as if it were causal.
 - c. both a and b.
 - d. neither a nor b.
8. Confidentiality in social research means that the researcher
 - a. cannot link data to specific individuals.
 - b. knows respondents' identities but does not reveal in any way that can be linked to individual respondents.
 - c. both a and b.
 - d. neither a nor b.
9. In social science, perfect relationships almost never are observed because
 - a. nearly every variable in the social world is influenced by many other variables.
 - b. measurements are often imprecise and contain errors.
 - c. both a and b.
 - d. neither a nor b.

Chapter 4

Topic 1: Are males or females more likely to be admitted to medical school?

1. In Topic 1, what is the independent variable?

- a. gender
- b. female
- c. admission to medical school
- d. can't tell

2. In Topic 1, what is the dependent variable?

- a. gender
- b. female
- c. admission to medical school
- d. can't tell

Topic 2: Do younger or older teens spend more time in household chores?

3. In Topic 2, what is the independent variable?

- a. household chores
- b. age (of teen)
- c. teens
- d. time spent in household chores

4. In Topic 2, what is the dependent variable?

- a. household chores
- b. age
- c. teens
- d. time spent in household chores

Topic 3: The higher mother's wage, the more likely she is to use formal, out-of-home childcare arrangements.

5. In Topic 3, what is the dependent variable?

- a. quality of childcare arrangement
- b. mother's wage
- c. mother's age
- d. can't tell

6. In Topic 3, what is the independent variable?

- a. quality of childcare arrangement

- b. mother's wage
- c. mother's age
- d. can't tell

Chapter 5

1. In the cookie example, what is the independent variable?
 - a. The temperature of the oven
 - b. The size of the cookie.
 - c. Who eats cookies baked with sugar or with sweetener
 - d. None of the above (a, b, c)
2. The definition of random assignment is
 - a. subjects are selected at random to participate in the experiment.
 - b. once selected, subjects are placed at random into one of the treatment groups.
 - c. both a and b.
 - d. neither a nor b.
3. The classical experiment design has
 - a. one group of subjects.
 - b. no pretest on the dependent variable.
 - c. a random assignment and a pretest and posttest on the dependent variable.
 - d. all of the above (a, b, c).
4. Compared to the posttest-only control group design, what's missing in the static group design?
 - a. an experimental group
 - b. a pretest on the dependent variable
 - c. random assignment
 - d. both a and c
5. The one-shot experimental design has
 - a. no pretest on the dependent variable.
 - b. no posttest on the dependent variable.
 - c. only one group.
 - d. only a and c.

Chapter 6

1. In general, the selected field site for an observational study should be a location where
 - a. the appropriate people to study are likely to be available and accessible.
 - b. the appropriate individuals are available to collect the data.
 - c. a location that provides accommodations for data collectors, such as lodging and food.
 - d. both a and b.

2. Difficulty in gaining access to subjects in a qualitative research study includes
 - a. differences between researcher and subjects, such as social class and gender.
 - b. elite status of a population of interest.
 - c. populations at the very bottom of the SES scale, such as homeless persons.
 - d. all of the above (a, b, c).
3. Advantages of concealing identity as a researcher include
 - a. access could be denied unless the researcher camouflages the role of researcher.
 - b. subjects are not tempted to purposely project an image for the researcher.
 - c. observers can guard against becoming emotionally entangled in a situation.
 - d. only (a and b).
4. In the study conducted with nursing home residents, which of the following can be seen as strength(s) of participant observation?
 - a. Ability to document conditions more difficult to identify in surveys, such as abuse of residents.
 - b. Ability both to observe and reason about how structural conditions likely influence nursing home environments.
 - c. Ability to observe how not-for-profit homes likely suffer from problems of poorly paid, overworked staff and the resulting low staff morale.
 - d. all of the above (a, b, c).
5. In the study conducted with couples viewing the two movies, what is/are advantage(s) of nonparticipant observation?
 - a. pre-test and post-test observations help rule out 'selection' effects as the reason for post-test differences between groups attending the two movies
 - b. variables are those that can be observed without subjects' participation
 - c. the 'natural setting' of the treatment
 - d. all of the above

Chapter 7

1. Referring to the "paper cups" study, how could changing weather conditions change the results of the study?
 - a. Rain or snow could wash away odors.
 - b. Wind could blow cups out of the trees.
 - c. Colder weather likely would make the odors stronger.
 - d. both a and b.
2. In the study of Roman tombstones, which of the following would be affected by exaggeration of ages at death beyond age forty or fifty?
 - a. validity
 - b. reliability
 - c. internal consistency
 - d. none of the above

3. Which of the following is most likely to affect consistency of measures?
 - a. classifying a song differently when it is coded more than once
 - b. choosing songs that do not illustrate the topic being studied
 - c. failing to determine the recording units
 - d. none of the above
4. “Sneaky measures” of crime, disorder or misuse in a community can include which of the following?
 - a. high insurance rates against theft
 - b. ownership records of discarded guns found at the scene
 - c. steel bars over the windows of business establishments
 - d. all of the above (a, b, c)
5. Why might one combine qualitative and quantitative approaches in the same study?
 - a. Quantitative methods offer a better basis for generalizing from a sample to a population.
 - b. Features identified as important indicators in qualitative research can focus on quality of care in a way not feasible with quantitative methods.
 - c. both a and b
 - d. neither a nor b

Chapter 8

1. Limitation(s) that an interviewer planning telephone surveys would have to consider is/are:
 - a. complex questions are difficult to handle by phone
 - b. low interviewer safety
 - c. possible standard error problem
 - d. all of the above (a, b, c)
2. Limitation(s) that an interviewer planning an Internet survey would have to consider is/are:
 - a. lack of standards for email addresses.
 - b. high coverage error.
 - c. high interviewer safety.
 - d. none of the above.
3. Limitation(s) that an interviewer planning personal interviews would have to consider is/are:
 - a. use of visual aids, such as a card containing income ranges.
 - b. lower response rates.
 - c. difficulty obtaining answers to questions about sensitive topics.
 - d. all of the above (a b, c).
4. A double-barrel question is a question that
 - a. has only two response options (e.g., True/False).

- b. combines two questions that should be separate questions
- c. is repeated twice during a survey, such as in a mail questionnaire.
- d. none of the above.

5. Probably the greatest problem with mail questionnaires is

- a. lack of addresses for some prospective respondents.
- b. low response rates without follow-up reminders.
- c. coverage error.
- d. all of the above (a, b, c).

6. Non-response errors are a problem in survey research because

- a. non-response reduces the sample size.
- b. non-respondents usually are not representative of the population.
- c. both a and b.
- d. neither a nor b.

7. A survey pretest is important because it helps to identify

- a. problems with procedures.
- b. questionnaire/interview wording.
- c. the potential for low response rate.
- d. all of the above (a, b, c).

Chapter 9

1. A probability sample that classifies the population into groups is called a

- a. simple random sample.
- b. systematic sample.
- c. stratified sample.
- d. none of the above.

2. A probability sample that is selected by taking each k^{th} element from a list is called a

- a. simple random sample.
- b. systematic sample.
- c. stratified sample.
- d. none of the above.

3. Compared to a non-probability sample, a probability sample is one for which each population element

- a. has a known probability of selection greater than zero.
- b. does not have a known probability of selection.
- c. there is no difference between the probability of selection for the two sample types.
- d. none of the above.

4. A “snowball” sample is

- a. a probability sample.
- b. a non-probability sample.
- c. a practical procedure to identify individuals who otherwise might remain unknown.
- d. both b and c.

5. A list of names could be used for which type of sampling strategy?

- a. simple random sample
- b. snowball sample
- c. stratified sample
- d. only a and c

6. In the list below, what are the names of the strata?

- a. social science and natural science faculty
- b. even-numbered persons (2, 4, 6....) and odd-numbered persons (1, 3, 5....)
- c. column 1 group and column 2 group
- d. there are no defined strata.

1	(SS) Nadia Adams		11	(SS) Linda Brescia
2	(SS) Timothy Ames		12	(SS) Glenn Cave
3	(SS) Nancy Ames		13	(SS) Charles Criscione
4	(SS) Quinn Ardillo		14	(SS) AmyJo Domst
5	(SS) Walther Barreca		15	(SS) Joyce East
6	(SS) Anita Bentham		16	(SS) Robert Joseph
7	(SS) Betty Berry		17	(SS) Alexis Lagana
8	(SS) Carol Bleacher		18	(SS) Gary Lanze
9	(SS) Fritz Bohlen		19	(SS) Marcia Mackay
10	(SS) William Branicky		20	(SS) Anthony Maitland

Chapter 10

Use Table 1 to answer the following five questions.

Table 1. Happiness Percentages by Type of Religion (GSS 2008).

Happiness	Type of Religion					Total
	Protestant	Catholic	Jew	Other	None	
Not too Happy	10.8	11.1	13.7	12.4	13.8	11.5
Happy	53.6	57.1	48.6	55.5	61.0	55.6
Very Happy	35.7	31.8	37.7	32.1	25.2	32.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
(N)	(5353)	(2700)	(194)	(640)	(1560)	(10447)

1. In Table 1, rounded to whole percentages, the percentage of Jews who are very happy is __%.

- a. 38

- b. 14
 - c. 49
 - d. 100
2. In Table 1, rounded to whole percentages, the total percentage in this sample that is very happy is
- a. 11%
 - b. 33%
 - c. 56%
 - d. 12%
3. Because there are more Protestants than Catholics in the dataset, the percentage results in Table 1, rounded to whole percentages, are
- a. biased toward Protestants.
 - b. biased toward Catholics
 - c. biased toward Jews
 - d. there is no bias by type of religion.
4. The research hypothesis for Table 1, rounded to whole percentages, is
- a. No difference in level of happiness by type of religion.
 - b. No difference in type of religion by level of happiness.
 - c. No difference between Catholics and Protestants in level of happiness.
 - d. None of the above (a, b, c).
5. In Table 1, rounded to whole percentages, the base (denominator) used to calculate the percentage of those reporting no religion is
- a. 10,447.
 - b. 640.
 - c. 1,560.
 - d. can't tell.

Chapter 11

Use Table 2 to answer the following five questions.

Table 2. Percentages of NFL Fans by Height, Controlling for Gender.

	Women				Men		
NFL fan	Short	Tall	Total		Short	Tall	Total
No	85.0	82.9	84.6		14.9	15.9	15.7
Yes	15.0	17.1	15.4		85.1	84.1	84.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0
(N)	(6284)	(1216)	(7500)		(1139)	(6288)	(7427)

1. In Table 2, the percentage of male NFL fans that are short is
 - a. 14.9%
 - b. 15%
 - c. 85%
 - d. 100%
2. The independent variable in Table 2 is
 - a. height
 - b. NFL fan (yes/no)
 - c. gender
 - d. can't tell
3. In Table 2, ___ % of all women in this sample are not NFL fans, while 84% of all men are NFL fans.
 - a. 84.6%
 - b. 15.4%
 - c. 84.1%
 - D. 84.6%
4. The total sample size for the study in Table 2 is
 - a. 7,500
 - b. 7,427
 - c. 100
 - d. can't tell
5. A null hypothesis for the data in Table 2 is
 - a. No difference by height on being an NFL fan.
 - b. Taller persons are more likely to report being an NFL fan than are shorter persons.
 - c. Males are more likely to be an NFL fan than are females.
 - d. none of the above (a, b, c).

Chapter 12

1. Possible forms of a research report include
 - a. monograph.
 - b. government report.
 - c. both a and b.
 - d. neither a nor b.
2. Strategies for developing your own writing style include
 - a. begin writing early and continually revise.
 - b. write down an outline that defines the major headings of your paper.
 - c. think of your report as a story – what would someone else need to know to understand your own research?

- d. all of the above (a, b, c).
- 3. Writers use headings and subheadings in a paper to
 - a. serve as a guide to the reader.
 - b. serve as a guide to the writer.
 - c. provide an organizing structure.
 - d. all of the above (a, b, c).
- 4. To avoid plagiarism
 - a. credit all sources of others' ideas.
 - b. keep accurate records of sources.
 - c. identify all direct quotes with quotation marks or in a block-quote style.
 - d. all of the above (a, b, c).
- 5. An evaluation report differs from an empirical journal article in that evaluation reports
 - a. vary in format more than do journal articles.
 - b. pay more attention to specific situations, often describing them in considerable detail.
 - c. generally are designed to test theory.
 - d. both a and b.

Chapter 13

- 1. Uncertainty is related to sticky theory in that
 - a. reality is unpredictable and answers to many important questions are not clear.
 - b. sticky theory is the opposite of recognition of uncertainty.
 - c. both a and b.
 - d. neither a nor b.
- 2. What are some criteria to evaluate sources of information?
 - a. Sources are free of vested interests in trying to convince you of something.
 - b. Sources have knowledge of the subject.
 - c. Standards of evidence can be applied to the content.
 - d. all of the above (a, b, c).
- 3. What are the main strong point(s) of the Consumer Reports (CR) data on car reliability?
 - a. The sample is very large and updated each year.
 - b. The questionnaire is fairly comprehensive, asking questions about many components of auto reliability.
 - c. CR accepts commercial advertising.
 - d. only a and b.
- 4. Suppose A is religiosity and B is happiness. Can one conduct a randomized experiment to find out whether A affects B?
 - a. Yes, assign individuals to one of the major religions and later ask how happy they are.

- b. Yes, assign individuals to level of happiness and later ask them what their religious preference is.
 - c. No random assignment of religiosity to people can be made.
 - d. None of the above (a, b, c).
5. Consider the Consumer Reports auto reliability data as a relationship between two variables: (a) make of automobile, and (b) frequency of repairs.
- a. The independent variable is frequency of repairs.
 - b. The independent variable is make of automobile.
 - c. The independent variable is the Consumer Reports data.
 - d. none of the above (a, b, c)
6. Consider the Consumer Reports auto reliability data as a relationship between two variables: (a) make of automobile, and (b) frequency of repairs.
- a. The dependent variable is frequency of repairs.
 - b. The dependent variable is make of automobile.
 - c. The dependent variable is the Consumer Reports data.
 - d. none of the above (a, b, c)