

Ch 2 Test Questions

Multiple Choice Questions (x20)

- 1) What does positivism argue?
 - a) Legitimate information come only from scientific explanations of reality *
 - b) Truth can never be revealed but scientists should always try
 - c) Science is the only way through which truth can be revealed *
- 2) Which of these principles are NOT key to social scientific thinking:
 - a) Direct method of agreement
 - b) Method of consistence *
 - c) Joint method
 - d) Concomitant variation
- 3) Which of the following statements refer to positivism?
 - a) Reality is socially constructed
 - b) Truth can be revealed through science *
 - c) Truth is always subjective
 - d) Valid information can be obtained through mathematical explanations *
- 4) What steps are involved when following a scientific method?
 - a) Testing hypotheses
 - b) Proposing a theory
 - c) Generalizing based on the findings
 - d) All of the above *
- 5) How do social scientists define “reality”?
 - a) Reality is constructed through social interactions
 - b) Reality is that which can be observed *

- c) Reality is situated and varies between individuals
 - d) Reality is made up of physical and social objects *
- 6) What are some of the characteristics of social scientific theories?
- a) They have axioms and/or postulates *
 - b) They have theorems *
 - c) They are used to provide thick descriptions
 - d) They are used to create social change
- 7) Social-scientific research aims at:
- a) Describing individuals' behaviors and viewpoints
 - b) Making claims and empirical generalizations *
 - c) Deconstructing meanings that are taken for granted
 - d) Predicting individuals' behaviors *
- 8) Social-scientific reasoning combines inductive and deductive logic.
- a) True *
 - b) False: it only uses inductive logic
 - c) False: it only uses deductive logic
- 9) Which if the following are NOT tenets of social scientific research?
- a) Empiricism
 - b) Subjectivity *
 - c) Voluntarism *
 - d) Objectivity
- 10) Different branches of positivism exist. Which are they?
- a) Post-positivism *

- b) Classical positivism *
 - c) Modern positivism
 - d) Logical positivism *
- 11) Which methods are most used in social scientific research?
- a) Quantitative methods *
 - b) Mixed-methods
 - c) Qualitative methods
- 12) What are hypotheses used for?
- a) They help researchers make predictions based on theories *
 - b) They help researchers know what the findings will be
 - c) They help researchers choose the methods
- 13) Which of the following scholar(s) belonged to the social scientific paradigm?
- a) Auguste Comte *
 - b) David Hurme *
 - c) George Wilhelm Hegel
 - d) Emile Durkheim *
- 14) How does a social scientific study differ from an interpretive one?
- a) It aims at generalizing results to broader contexts/populations *
 - b) It is more likely to use qualitative methods
 - c) It is more likely to use a theory that guides the inquiry *
 - d) It is more likely to use quantitative methods *
- 15) Which aspects are central to “logical positivism”?
- a) Knowledge comes from researchers’ own interpretations

- b) Knowledge comes from verification *
 - c) Knowledge includes rational thought *
- 16) What did Karl Popper argue?
- a) Knowledge can always be proven right through scientific measures
 - b) Knowledge can never be proven *
 - c) Knowledge can only be refuted *
 - d) All of the above
- 17) What is most used to make predictions in social scientific research?
- a) Research questions
 - b) Claims
 - c) Hypotheses *
- 18) Which traditions of philosophy acknowledge some level of research subjectivity in research?
- a) Positivism
 - b) Post-positivism *
 - c) Modern positivism
- 19) What does “determinism” mean?
- a) Human actions are caused by factors that cannot be identified
 - b) Internal attributes do not affect human actions, only external factors do
 - c) External factors do not affect human actions, only internal attributes do
 - d) Human actions are caused by identifiable factors *
- 20) What is the purpose of generalizations?
- a) To improve theories *

- b) To develop an area of study *
- c) To highlight power relations in different contexts
- d) All of the above

Short Answer Questions

- 1) What are the five principles to inductive reasoning outlined by John Stuart Mill?
- 2) How is positivism different from post-positivism?
- 3) Discuss the steps of the scientific method.

Essay Questions

- 1) For a social scientist, what is theory?
- 2) What is the place of value in research for social scientists?