

## **CHAPTER 2: ASKING AND ANSWERING SOCIOLOGICAL QUESTIONS**

### **MULTIPLE CHOICE**

1. The strongest sociological research begins with problems that:
  - a. answer socially pertinent questions
  - b. are puzzles, meaning a gap in our understanding
  - c. detail factual evidence
  - d. explore new social phenomenon
  - e. review the evidence

ANS: B                      DIF: Easy                      REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Remembering

2. Which of the following is a great puzzle-solving research question?
  - a. What proportion of the population holds strong religious beliefs?
  - b. What accounts for the recent decline in the proportion of the population voting in presidential elections?
  - c. How much has the divorce rate declined since the early 1980s?
  - d. How far do the earnings of professional women lag behind those of men?
  - e. Are people today disaffected with “big government”?

ANS: B                      DIF: Medium                      REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Applying

3. Sasha, a student in a sociology class, received his graded research paper. He was deducted points for not citing a famous study done five years ago that was nearly identical to the research he conducted. What step in the research process should he have done more carefully?
  - a. define the research problem
  - b. carry out the research
  - c. interpret the results
  - d. select an appropriate research design
  - e. review the evidence / literature

ANS: E                      DIF: Medium                      REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Understanding

4. For his research project in his sociology class, Jamal is studying eating disorders among college students. He is currently interviewing several subjects. What stage of the research process is he in now?
  - a. define the research problem
  - b. carry out the research
  - c. interpret the results
  - d. select an appropriate research design
  - e. review the evidence

ANS: B                      DIF: Medium                      REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Applying

5. For his research project in his sociology class, Joe is studying cheating among college students. He is currently developing a questionnaire. What stage of the research process is he in now?
- define the research problem
  - carry out the research
  - interpret the results
  - working out a design
  - review the evidence

ANS: D                      DIF: Medium              REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Applying

6. Reviewing the evidence involves all of the following EXCEPT:
- reviewing the research problems that previous researchers have left unanalyzed
  - searching only for research findings that support your hypothesis
  - learning about past research done on your topic
  - examining how previous researchers approached the problem under study
  - clarifying your research question and appropriate research methods

ANS: B                      DIF: Medium              REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Remembering

7. For her research project in her sociology class, Joan has decided to do research on gender wage differences between men and women. What should be her next step?
- develop a hypothesis
  - interpret the results
  - report the findings
  - review the literature
  - select an appropriate research design

ANS: D                      DIF: Medium              REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Applying

8. For his research project in his sociology class, Jose is studying dating preferences among college students. He has already decided to conduct a survey of his classmates and has developed a hypothesis. What should be his next step?
- carry out the research
  - define the research problem
  - interpret the results
  - report the findings
  - select an appropriate research design

ANS: A                      DIF: Medium              REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Applying

9. A good hypothesis will be formulated in such a way that the:
- existing literature will have already answered the question
  - factual material gathered will always disprove it
  - factual material gathered will always support it

- d. factual material gathered will not provide evidence either to support it or disprove it
- e. factual material gathered will provide evidence either supporting or disproving it

ANS: E

DIF: Medium

REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Remembering

10. Which of the following statements is an example of a hypothesis?
- a. Minority women are overrepresented in our sample.
  - b. Nonmarital births accounted for one-third of all U.S. births in 2000.
  - c. Most women, even unwed mothers, eventually marry.
  - d. Unwed mothers are expected to be more likely than single childless women to marry less well-educated men.
  - e. The birthrate in the U.S. has sharply decreased since 1900.

ANS: D

DIF: Difficult

REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Applying

11. A researcher will survey college students concerning their attitudes toward lowering the legal drinking age to 18. Which of the following is a good research hypothesis?
- a. Students under age 21 will be more supportive of lowering the drinking age than students 21 and older.
  - b. Opinions toward lowering the drinking age will not affect legislation.
  - c. Most college students will be in favor of lowering the drinking age to 18.
  - d. A majority of college students have consumed alcohol before age 21.
  - e. Lowering the drinking age to 18 will lead to fewer arrests for underage drinking.

ANS: A

DIF: Difficult

REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Applying

12. The interpretation of the results of sociological research projects:
- a. almost always leads to results that are fully conclusive
  - b. always leads to a clear answer to the initial questions
  - c. is rarely easy
  - d. is usually easy
  - e. is the least complicated part of the research process

ANS: C

DIF: Medium

REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Remembering

13. Usually sociological research projects:
- a. provide the public with clear-cut and definitive answers to the research problem
  - b. end up influencing the behavior of subjects rather than observing it
  - c. create more research questions and problems
  - d. are uncomplicated
  - e. allow us to use anecdotal information to illuminate social processes

ANS: C

DIF: Easy

REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Remembering

14. What is NOT an aspect of reporting the findings of sociological research?
- The research report is usually published as a journal article or book.
  - Researchers attempt to relate the nature of the research.
  - Researchers seek to justify the conclusions.
  - Most researchers identify unanswered questions.
  - The individual investigation is rarely seen as part of the continuing process of research within the sociological community.

ANS: E                      DIF: Medium                      REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Remembering

15. With respect to the steps to doing research outlined in the text, which of the following is NOT true?
- The stages outlined in the text rarely succeed each other so neatly.
  - The sequence of steps outlined in the text is a simplified version of what happens in actual research projects.
  - The sequence of steps outlined in the text can be unduly restricting.
  - Much outstanding sociological research would not fit rigidly into this sequence.
  - Few of the steps outlined in the text are followed in most sociological research.

ANS: E                      DIF: Medium                      REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Understanding

16. Which statement best characterizes sociology in its early development?
- It focused on biological and physical phenomena.
  - It focused on face-to-face interaction.
  - It focused on the relationship between humans and the physical environment.
  - It was a very empirical field.
  - It was a very theoretical field.

ANS: E                      DIF: Medium                      REF: Historical Context

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Remembering

17. Beginning in the 1920s in American sociology, largely at the University of Chicago, the discipline of sociology began to transform in what way?
- There was a stronger attempt to make theoretical speculations more generalizable.
  - There was a stronger attempt to ground sociological concepts and theories in facts and data.
  - Sociological findings were increasingly applied to business and industry.
  - Sociology began to look more like an art than a science.
  - Sociology aligned itself with the Communist party.

ANS: B                      DIF: Medium                      REF: Historical Context

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Remembering

18. Robert Park's vision of sociology included:
- transforming the orientation of sociology to look a lot more like the natural sciences
  - heavy use of statistics
  - quantifying observations as much as possible

- d. a strong focus on theory
- e. a focus on careful firsthand observation

ANS: E                      DIF: Medium                      REF: Historical Context

OBJ: Contrast Park's and Ogburn's visions of sociology as a science. Understand their influence on contemporary sociological research.                      MSC: Remembering

19. William Ogburn's vision of sociology included:
- a. transforming the orientation of sociology to look a lot more like the natural sciences
  - b. focusing on the emotional experiences of its subjects
  - c. getting involved in the lives of its subjects
  - d. focusing on theory more than data
  - e. focusing on biological explanations

ANS: A                      DIF: Medium                      REF: Historical Context

OBJ: Contrast Park's and Ogburn's visions of sociology as a science. Understand their influence on contemporary sociological research.                      MSC: Remembering

20. Alice Goffman spent six years hanging out with and observing the everyday life of a group of black men who were on the run from the criminal justice system in a poor neighborhood in Philadelphia. Her research methods most closely resemble the work of:
- a. Robert Park
  - b. William Ogburn
  - c. Emile Durkheim
  - d. Karl Marx
  - e. Theda Skocpol

ANS: A                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: Historical Context

OBJ: Contrast Park's and Ogburn's visions of sociology as a science. Understand their influence on contemporary sociological research.                      MSC: Understanding

21. Reilly, a sociology master's student, wants to do research on the homeless in her city. She would like to provide a rich, detailed, inside view of being homeless. What research method should she choose?
- a. comparative research
  - b. ethnography
  - c. experiment
  - d. historical analysis
  - e. survey

ANS: B                      DIF: Medium                      REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Applying

22. Recently, social scientists using participant observation have written about how their race, class, gender, and sexual orientation:
- a. affected their research due to power differences
  - b. allowed them to be completely objective about their work
  - c. caused many researchers to go native
  - d. did not affect the research process
  - e. forced their work to be subjective

ANS: A                      DIF: Easy                      REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the

advantages and disadvantages of each. MSC: Remembering

23. Using participant observation in the sociological research process requires:
- establishing a formal relationship with the leaders and members of the group
  - creating a formal boundary between the researcher and the group
  - using great skill and sensitivity in gaining the trust and confidence of numerous members of the group and/or community under study
  - having little interaction with the group members or leaders, just observation group
  - losing the perspective of an outside observer through the researcher's relationship with the group

ANS: C

DIF: Medium

REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each. MSC: Remembering

24. What is NOT a weakness of the ethnographic method?
- In-depth information about the research topic is difficult to obtain.
  - Findings may apply only to the particular group and/or setting.
  - Only fairly small groups or communities can be studied.
  - A researcher could identify so closely with the group that he loses the perspective of an outside observer.
  - Power differences between the researcher and the group may distort the dialogue between them.

ANS: A

DIF: Medium

REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each. MSC: Understanding

25. In her research on everyday life in a poor neighborhood in Philadelphia, Alice Goffman concluded that all of the following places were dangerous for the black men in her study who were on the run from the criminal justice system in the sense that police used these places to locate and arrest them EXCEPT:
- church
  - court
  - hospital
  - mother's house
  - workplaces

ANS: A

DIF: Easy

REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each. MSC: Remembering

26. Which research method would be best to use if you wanted a large, representative sample of people's attitudes toward married women with children working outside the home?
- survey
  - life history
  - experiment
  - ethnography
  - comparative historical analysis

ANS: A

DIF: Easy

REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each. MSC: Applying

27. Tom develops a questionnaire for his study on Facebook usage that allows subjects to indicate whether they strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with various statements. These types of questions are known as:
- contingency questions
  - experimental questions
  - fieldwork questions
  - open-ended questions
  - standardized questions

ANS: E

DIF: Easy

REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.

MSC: Applying

28. Frank develops a questionnaire for his study on Internet dating. One of his questions asks, "How do you feel about Internet dating?" What type of question is this?
- contingency
  - experimental
  - fieldwork
  - open-ended
  - standardized

ANS: D

DIF: Easy

REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.

MSC: Applying

29. Kelly develops a questionnaire to test on a few subjects to find potential problems with it before conducting the full study. What is this trial run called?
- population study
  - pilot study
  - empirical study
  - developmental study
  - control study

ANS: B

DIF: Easy

REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.

MSC: Applying

30. Kevin is interested in doing a study on student attitudes toward the general education requirements on his campus. He surveys 50 students. This small group of students he surveyed is known as the:
- population
  - control group
  - experimental group
  - sample
  - standardized group

ANS: D

DIF: Medium

REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.

MSC: Applying

31. For a sample to accurately reflect the characteristics of the study population, it must be:
- democratic
  - large

- c. public
- d. representative
- e. standardized

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy                      REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Remembering

32. The main purpose of sampling is to:
- a. enhance the quality of your observations
  - b. select cases that will support your research hypotheses
  - c. select members of a population who are the most willing to participate in your study
  - d. select a set of people who are representative of the population
  - e. select a set of people with a wide range of characteristics

ANS: D                      DIF: Medium                      REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Understanding

33. Which of the following describes an advantage of survey research?
- a. It allows us to see a situation from inside a particular group.
  - b. It provides richer detail about a population than other methods.
  - c. Researchers can control the influence of specific variables.
  - d. Response rates are usually high.
  - e. Results can be easily quantified and analyzed.

ANS: E                      DIF: Easy                      REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Understanding

34. What kind of research method would be best suited if you were hired by a real estate company to learn how the residents in a gated community feel about racial desegregation?
- a. surveys
  - b. participant observation
  - c. historical analysis
  - d. experiment
  - e. comparative research

ANS: A                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Applying

35. Experiments are much less common in sociology than in the natural sciences. Why is this?
- a. It is too difficult to find willing participants who meet the criteria of sociological studies.
  - b. Sociological researchers can control all of the conditions, making experiments more laborious for them.
  - c. Sociological researchers can bring only small groups into a laboratory setting, where people may behave unnaturally because they are being watched.
  - d. Sociological researchers exercise unconscious prejudices while choosing experiment subjects.
  - e. There is not enough statistical data to gather while conducting experiments.

ANS: C                      DIF: Medium                      REF: Research Methods



OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each. MSC: Understanding

36. Philip Zimbardo's prison experiment involved setting up a make-believe jail and randomly assigning male student volunteers to the roles of guards and prisoners. The researcher concluded that:
- existing personal relationships interfered with students' ability to assume their assigned roles
  - behavior in prisons reflects individual personality characteristics of guards and prisoners
  - behavior in prisons is strongly influenced by the nature of the prison setting
  - because prisoners became violent toward the guards, the experiment had to be canceled early
  - because students could not imagine what it is like to be in a prison situation, they were unable to carry out their assigned duties

ANS: C DIF: Medium REF: Research Methods

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each. MSC: Remembering

37. A classic social science research study involved setting up a make-believe jail and randomly assigning male student volunteers to the roles of guards and prisoners. This research used what method?
- survey
  - participant observation
  - historical analysis
  - experiment
  - comparative research

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each. MSC: Remembering

38. Which research method would best address the following research question: How much does participation in one session of a SAT preparation course affect students' SAT scores?
- survey
  - participant observation
  - historical analysis
  - experiment
  - comparative research

ANS: D DIF: Medium REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each. MSC: Applying

39. In an experiment on the effects of caffeine on the alertness of college students, student volunteers are randomly assigned to two groups. One group is given caffeinated coffee while the other group is given decaffeinated coffee. All participants then play a video game to assess their mental acuity, measured as their final score on the video game. In this study, the group that is given caffeinated coffee is called the:
- control group
  - experimental group
  - focus group
  - population
  - sample

ANS: B                      DIF: Medium                      REF: The Research Process  
OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Applying

40. Compared to other Western countries, divorce rates in the United States are \_\_\_\_\_ although rates have been \_\_\_\_\_ everywhere.
- lower; increasing
  - lower; decreasing
  - higher; increasing
  - higher; decreasing
  - about the same; stagnant

ANS: C                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: The Research Process  
OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Remembering

41. Theda Skocpol's *States and Social Revolutions*:
- applied comparative research in a historical context that examined the social change of revolutions
  - drew on numerous documents, official and unofficial, over a short period of time
  - illustrated that enlisted men often ignored the commands of their officers
  - was an illuminating experiment that could not be conducted today under more stringent federal regulations
  - showed that social transformation is more common in a time of war than peace

ANS: A                      DIF: Medium                      REF: The Research Process  
OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Remembering

42. Theda Skocpol's *States and Social Revolutions* is an example of what type of research?
- survey
  - participant observation
  - historical analysis
  - experiment
  - comparative-historical research

ANS: E                      DIF: Easy                      REF: The Research Process  
OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Remembering

43. In *Waves of War*, Andreas Wimmer takes a novel approach to the historical study of wars and revolutions in that:
- he considers only European countries in his analysis
  - he includes countries that had only successful revolutions
  - he uses formal modeling and statistical techniques to analyze hundreds of cases at the same time
  - his main sources of information were newspaper accounts written as events unfolded
  - the analysis focuses only on wars and revolutions that have occurred in the era of modern warfare (post-1900)

ANS: B                      DIF: Easy                      REF: The Research Process  
OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Understanding

44. In *Waves of War*, Andreas Wimmer reported the finding that since 1800, wars around the world have increasingly resulted from:
- class differences between workers and capitalists
  - concerns over human rights violations
  - disputes over land
  - ethnic and nationalist concerns
  - ideological differences between ruling parties

ANS: D                      DIF: Medium                      REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Remembering

45. Sociologists engage in historical analysis because:
- a good sociologist must also be a good historian
  - societies were more complex in the nineteenth century
  - sociology is ill equipped to study the modern world
  - survey research and fieldwork are inadequate research methods
  - a time perspective is frequently needed to make sense of a research problem

ANS: E                      DIF: Easy                      REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Remembering

46. What calculation gives a researcher a good idea of how spread out a series of numbers is?
- mean
  - median
  - mode
  - standard deviation
  - correlation coefficient

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy                      REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Remembering

47. If two variables were completely correlated, their correlation coefficient would be:
- 0
  - 1
  - 10
  - 100
  - nonexistent

ANS: B                      DIF: Easy                      REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Remembering

48. What should be your FIRST step when reading a table?
- Scan all of the information on the page to try and summarize the data provided.
  - Read the headings on the table; they'll provide information about the content.
  - Read the full title; it is the researcher's attempt to describe the data in the table.
  - Read the footnotes; they contain the most important information.
  - Create a hypothesis about the subject so it can be tested against the data provided.

ANS: C                      DIF: Medium                      REF: The Research Process  
OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Remembering

49. In Jeff's sample, the number of siblings each person has is as follows: 1, 2, 3, 4, and 10. What is the mean number of siblings in his sample?
- a. 3
  - b. 4
  - c. 5
  - d. 6
  - e. 7

ANS: B                      DIF: Medium                      REF: The Research Process  
OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Applying

50. In Jeff's sample, the number of siblings each person has is as follows: 1, 2, 3, 4, and 10. What is the median number of siblings in his sample?
- a. 3
  - b. 4
  - c. 5
  - d. 6
  - e. 7

ANS: A                      DIF: Medium                      REF: The Research Process  
OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Applying

51. What is the most frequent figure in a series of numbers called?
- a. mean
  - b. median
  - c. mode
  - d. standard deviation
  - e. correlation coefficient

ANS: C                      DIF: Easy                      REF: The Research Process  
OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Remembering

52. All sociological research on human subjects imposes some sort of:
- a. ethical dilemma that could possibly have a negative effect on the subjects involved
  - b. historical analysis of present-day culture
  - c. need for social transformation
  - d. need to use survey methods
  - e. risk to the sociologist because someone could accuse the researcher of being biased

ANS: A                      DIF: Medium                      REF: Unanswered Questions  
OBJ: See how research methods generate controversies and ethical dilemmas for sociologists.  
MSC: Remembering

53. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of scientific research?
- a. systematic methods
  - b. stated level of uncertainty about conclusions

- c. dissemination of procedures to allow replication
- d. theoretical thinking
- e. narrow range of appropriate topics

ANS: E                      DIF: Medium              REF: Unanswered Questions

OBJ: See how research methods generate controversies and ethical dilemmas for sociologists.

MSC: Understanding

54. Given what you learned in high school about scientific research, in what way does the sociological research process differ from that of the natural and physical sciences, such as physics?
- a. Physicists use a scientific process that, unlike sociological research, doesn't rely on theory.
  - b. There is little difference in the processes that are employed by physicists or sociologists.
  - c. Sociologists study mental states whereas physicists study particles.
  - d. Physicists are usually employed by private corporations, and sociologists work only at universities.
  - e. The differences between the research processes of physicists and sociologists are far too vast to list.

ANS: B                      DIF: Difficult              REF: Unanswered Questions

OBJ: See how research methods generate controversies and ethical dilemmas for sociologists.

MSC: Understanding

55. How is social science different from a natural science?
- a. Social science studies objects that are self-aware (i.e., humans).
  - b. Social science studies objects (i.e., humans) whose behaviors cannot be influenced by being observed by researchers.
  - c. Social science cannot be systematic.
  - d. Social science cannot conduct empirical studies.
  - e. Social science cannot quantify human behavior.

ANS: A                      DIF: Medium              REF: Unanswered Questions

OBJ: See how research methods generate controversies and ethical dilemmas for sociologists.

MSC: Understanding

56. According to the text, many scholars are less confident in the ability of social science to attain which of the following goals?
- a. ensuring the safety of study participants
  - b. identifying causes and effects
  - c. protecting the identify of study participants
  - d. selecting a representative sample
  - e. using statistical analysis to obtain meaningful results

ANS: A                      DIF: Medium              REF: Unanswered Questions

OBJ: See how research methods generate controversies and ethical dilemmas for sociologists.

MSC: Understanding

## TRUE/FALSE

1. Scientific activity combines the creation of boldly new modes of thought with the careful testing of hypotheses and ideas.

ANS: T                      DIF: Easy                      REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Remembering

2. One major feature that helps distinguish science from other idea systems (such as religion) is the assumption that all scientific ideas are open to criticism and revision.

ANS: T                      DIF: Easy                      REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Remembering

3. Drawing on other researchers' ideas helps the sociologist clarify relevant issues and appropriate research methods.

ANS: T                      DIF: Medium                      REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Remembering

4. Only research projects that follow the sequence of steps outlined in the text result in accurate findings.

ANS: F                      DIF: Medium                      REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.

MSC: Remembering

5. If the value of one variable goes up when the value of another variable goes down, a negative correlation exists.

ANS: T                      DIF: Medium                      REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Understanding

6. To study the homeless, you must actually live among them.

ANS: F                      DIF: Medium                      REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Understanding

7. The three main methods used in sociological research are ethnography, survey, and experiment.

ANS: T                      DIF: Easy                      REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Remembering

8. By employing the method of ethnography, sociologists are able to study large, complex groups and/or societies.

ANS: F                      DIF: Easy                      REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Remembering

9. Alice Goffman found that the men in her study with warrants out for their arrest were able to avoid being arrested by behaving like law-abiding citizens, by going to work, living with their family, and showing up for court dates.

ANS: F                      DIF: Medium                      REF: The Research Process  
OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Understanding

10. The only valid way to study a large population is to include every member of the population in the study group.

ANS: F                      DIF: Medium                      REF: The Research Process  
OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Understanding

11. A disadvantage of survey research is that only small groups or communities can be studied this way.

ANS: F                      DIF: Easy                      REF: The Research Process  
OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Remembering

12. Experiments are usually much easier for other researchers to replicate than surveys or ethnographies.

ANS: T                      DIF: Easy                      REF: The Research Process  
OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Remembering

13. Experiments must be conducted in a laboratory setting to yield meaningful results.

ANS: F                      DIF: Medium                      REF: The Research Process  
OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Understanding

14. The mode and the mean are both measures of central tendency.

ANS: T                      DIF: Easy                      REF: The Research Process  
OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Remembering

15. The median is a better measure of central tendency of skewed data than the mean.

ANS: T                      DIF: Medium                      REF: The Research Process  
OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Understanding

16. The median is the midpoint of a range of values.

ANS: T                      DIF: Medium                      REF: The Research Process  
OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Remembering

17. Researchers cannot claim that variables are correlated unless the correlation coefficient is 1 or  $-1$ .

ANS: F                      DIF: Medium                      REF: The Research Process  
OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Understanding

18. The correlation coefficient gives a researcher a good idea of the range of a series of figures.

ANS: F                      DIF: Easy                      REF: The Research Process  
OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.                      MSC: Remembering

19. Social context may be causally linked to human behavior.

ANS: T                      DIF: Medium                      REF: Unanswered Questions  
OBJ: See how research methods generate controversies and ethical dilemmas for sociologists.  
MSC: Understanding

20. Sociological research often involves some sort of ethical dilemma that could possibly have a negative effect on the subjects involved.

ANS: T                      DIF: Easy                      REF: Unanswered Questions  
OBJ: See how research methods generate controversies and ethical dilemmas for sociologists.  
MSC: Understanding

## ESSAY

1. What are the characteristics of good puzzle-solving questions?

ANS:

Answers may vary. Should include: addresses gap in our understanding; seek explanations for human behavior / events.

DIF: Easy                      REF: Basic Concepts  
OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.  
MSC: Remembering

2. List the SEVEN steps in the scientific research process and discuss what happens in each step.

ANS:

Answers may vary. Should include: Defining research problem; reviewing evidence; developing hypotheses; designing the research; carrying out research; performing data analysis; and reporting results.

DIF: Medium                      REF: Basic Concepts  
OBJ: Learn the steps of the research process and be able to complete the process yourself.  
MSC: Understanding



3. Compare Robert Park's vision of sociology with William Ogburn's.

ANS:

Answers may vary. Should include: Park emphasized fieldwork, participant-observation, focus on immigration and city life. Ogburn emphasized quantitative research on any topic, scientific method, statistical analysis.

DIF: Medium      REF: Historical Context

OBJ: Contrast Park's and Ogburn's visions of sociology as a science. Understand their influence on contemporary sociological research.      MSC: Analyzing

4. A sociologist wishes to gain insight into street-vendor activities in a major American city. What research method would probably be best to use in such a study? Why? What are the strengths and weaknesses of this method in regard to this topic?

ANS:

Answers may vary. Should include: ethnography. Strengths: insider perspective; in-depth observations. Weaknesses: findings not generalizable; researcher effects on observed.

DIF: Difficult      REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.      MSC: Creating

5. You receive a major research grant for \$100,000 to study prescription stimulant misuse and its effect on student grades on college campuses around the United States. Which of the major research methods discussed in the text (survey, experiment, field research, comparative-historical) is most appropriate, in your opinion, and why? What are the strengths and weaknesses of this method in regard to this topic?

ANS:

Answers may vary. Should include: survey. Strengths: large, nationally representative sample possible; relatively quick & inexpensive. Weaknesses: difficult to infer causality if cross-sectional; superficial information; difficult to control for outside influences.

DIF: Difficult      REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.      MSC: Creating

6. Compare and contrast two of the major research methods discussed in the text (survey, experiment, field research, comparative-historical). What are the advantages and disadvantages of each method? Write a research question on the topic of divorce using each of the three methods.

ANS:

Answers may vary.

DIF: Difficult      REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.      MSC: Evaluating

7. Discuss the difference between the median and the mean. Which measure might you use if you were reporting on wealth of American families? Explain.

ANS:

Answers may vary. Should include: median is the midpoint in a range of values; mean is the average. Wealth is highly skewed, with most families having little (or negative) wealth, while some families are extremely wealthy. Therefore, median is preferred as a measure of the typical wealth.

DIF: Medium      REF: The Research Process

OBJ: Familiarize yourself with the methods available to sociological researchers and know the advantages and disadvantages of each.      MSC: Analyzing

8. What issues may arise when following the scientific research process to study human behavior?

ANS:

Answers may vary. Should include several of the following: ethical considerations; exploitation; impact of context; impact of researcher on observations; issues related to human subjects; causal complexity.

DIF: Easy      REF: Unanswered Questions

OBJ: See how research methods generate controversies and ethical dilemmas for sociologists.

MSC: Analyzing

9. Can social scientists ever PROVE the cause(s) of human behavior? Why (not)? Discuss the nature of causation in social science, including special considerations in studying human subjects.

ANS:

Answers may vary. Should include: no, due to complexity of human behavior; multiple causation; ethical considerations; impacts of social context, biology, and researchers.

DIF: Medium      REF: Unanswered Questions

OBJ: See how research methods generate controversies and ethical dilemmas for sociologists.

MSC: Evaluating

10. Is sociology a science? Explain. How is it similar and different from the natural sciences?

ANS:

Answers may vary. Should include several of the following: similarities—scientific method, empirical observations; goals of objectivity; differences—ethical considerations; exploitation; impact of context; impact of researcher on observations; issues related to human subjects.

DIF: Difficult      REF: Unanswered Questions

OBJ: See how research methods generate controversies and ethical dilemmas for sociologists.

MSC: Analyzing