

Chapter 2. Explaining

MC 2-1

The function of **theory** is to:

- a. explain behaviour of humans and institutions
- b. explain patterns in the social world
- c. offer testable explanations for observed relationships
- d. all of the above

Answer: D

Difficulty: Easy

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MC 2-2

Validity refers to the extent which:

- a. on repeated measures, an indicator will yield similar readings
- b. a particular measure reflects the concept being studied
- c. a study being conducted is valuable to society
- d. a study being conducted is valuable to the scientific community

Answer: B

Difficulty: Easy

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MC 2-3

Reliability refers to the extent to which:

- a. on repeated measures, an indicator will yield similar readings
- b. a particular measure reflects the concept being studied
- c. a study being conducted is able to produce the same results as previous studies of a similar character
- d. none of the above

Answer: A

Difficulty: Easy

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MC 2-4

Deductively speaking, if A causes B, and if B causes C, then which of the following must be true:

- a. A causes C
- b. A does not cause C
- c. only B causes C
- d. none of the above
- e. all of the above

Answer: A

Difficulty: Easy

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MC 2-5

Deductive reasoning begins at the:

- a. conceptual stage
- b. theoretical stage
- c. operational stage
- d. b and c but not a

Answer: B

Difficulty: Moderate

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MC 2-6

Which of the following is not a component of **formal theory**:

- a. conceptual scheme
- b. set of propositions
- c. set of statistical figures
- d. contingency of stated propositions

Answer: C

Difficulty: Easy

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MC 2-7

The **power** of a theory refers to:

- a. the number of scientists who subscribe to it
- b. the number of propositions that can be derived from it
- c. the number of times it is referenced in articles
- d. the value of it to that of society

Answer: B

Difficulty: Moderate

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MC 2-8

Partial theory attempts to explain:

- a. an assumed or known relationship by proposing a testable causal model
- b. a new model within social science by means of a causal model
- c. a model borrowed from the physical sciences
- d. patterned behaviour

Answer: A

Difficulty: Easy

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MC 2-9

An **axiomatic** derivation is a:

- a. set of logically derived statements of relationships
- b. set of truisms derived from the social world
- c. set of partially true statements about the social world
- d. synonym for a hypothesis

Answer: A

Difficulty: Easy

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MC 2-10

Replacement of terms refers to:

- a. replacing specific components of a theory with general ones
- b. replacing general components of a theory with specific ones
- c. replacing theories with hypotheses
- d. none of the above

Answer: B

Difficulty: Moderate

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ES 2-1

Briefly define or describe what is meant by each of the following:

- a) alternative explanation
- b) partial theory
- c) formal theory
- d) axiomatic derivation
- e) anecdotal evidence
- f) causal explanation
- g) empathetic explanation
- h) functional explanation
- i) probabilistic explanation
- j) replacement of terms

Answer: ESSAY

ES 2-2

Contrast "formal theory" with "partial theory;" how would you go about testing a hypothesis related to each type of theory?

Answer: ESSAY

ES 2-3

Choose a relationship that you think would hold true and propose three alternative explanations for the relationship. Connect your proposed explanations to an existing social science perspective. Outline a study which would allow you to reject the various explanations?

Answer: ESSAY