

Chapter 02 - Sociological Research

Chapter 02
Sociological Research

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Adler and Adler's work on self-injury reflects which of the three major sociological approaches?

- A. functionalist perspective
- B. conflict perspective
- C. interactionist perspective
- D.** reflects all three perspectives

Type: P

2. Which one of the following statements is true regarding the subjects of Adler and Adler's study of self-injurers?

- A. Most begin injuring in secret.
- B. They are a homogeneous group.
- C.** Behavior is carefully planned.
- D. Most eventually "grow out of it".

Type: P

3. Adler and Adler studied:

- A. suicide
- B.** self-injury
- C. spousal abuse
- D. college students

Type: I

4. Which of the following terms is used to describe a systematic, organized series of steps that ensures maximum objectivity and consistency in researching a problem?

- A. scientific method
- B. social science
- C. experiment
- D. value neutrality

Type: D

5. What is commonly the second step in the scientific method?

- A. defining the problem
- B. selecting the research design
- C. reviewing the literature
- D. collecting and analyzing data

Type: I

6. If you were interested in studying the relationship between date and acquaintance rape victims and the characteristics of the rapist, your first step would be to:

- A. review the literature on date and acquaintance rape.
- B. define the problem.
- C. create a hypothesis.
- D. choose a research design.

Type: C

7. After a sociologist reviews the literature, what is the next step in the process?

- A. review the literature on date and acquaintance rape
- B. ideas for future research
- C. create a hypothesis
- D. choose a research design

Type: C

8. An operational definition is:

- A. a speculative statement about the relationship between two variables.
- B. the extent to which a measure provides consistent results.
- C.** an explanation of an abstract concept that is specific enough to allow a researcher to measure the concept.
- D. a relationship between two variables whereby a change in one coincides with a change in the other.

Type: D

9. Which operational definition does Schaefer use in his research example to illustrate the scientific method?

- A. recreation and work
- B. prejudice and education
- C. social clubs and status
- D.** education and earnings

Type: I

10. A sociologist who is interested in examining racism in sports might determine what percentage of team owners, general managers, coaches, and managers are members of each racial group. This would be an example of developing a(an)

- A. research design.
- B.** operational definition.
- C. hypothesis.
- D. theory.

Type: C

11. Which sociological perspective would most likely suggest that education is necessary for people to earn more money and advance in society for the purpose of social stability?

- A.** functionalist perspective
- B. conflict perspective
- C. interactionist perspective
- D. feminist perspective

Type: P

12. What sociological perspective would most likely suggest that educational inequalities are purposeful and set up to reinforce the position of those in power?

- A. functionalist perspective
- B.** conflict perspective
- C. interactionist perspective
- D. feminist perspective

Type: P

13. Sociologists conduct a "review of the literature" to

- A. refine the problem under study.
- B. clarify possible techniques to be used in collecting data.
- C. eliminate or reduce the number of avoidable mistakes they make.
- D.** all of these

Type: I

14. A speculative statement about the relationship between two or more variables is known as a

- A. correlation.
- B.** hypothesis.
- C. sample.
- D. research design.

Type: D

15. Which of the following best describes the notion that the higher the level of one's education, the higher one's income level will be?

- A. independent variables
- B. operational definition
- C.** hypothesis
- D. none of these

Type: C

16. The statement "Women who receive welfare are less likely than other women to have babies" is an example of

- A. an operational definition.
- B.** a hypothesis.
- C. a research design.
- D. causal logic.

Type: C

17. A researcher finds that those who have children at a young age are significantly more likely to have lower levels of education. This would be an example of:

- A. a hypothesis
- B.** a correlation
- C. a cause
- D. an effect

Type: C

18. The statement "Most homeless people are not mentally ill" is an example of a(an)

- A.** hypothesis.
- B. experiment.
- C. operational definition.
- D. variable.

Type: C

19. A variable is

- A. a measurable trait or characteristic that is subject to change under different conditions.
- B. the extent to which a measure provides consistent results.
- C. the unintended influence that observers or experiments can have on their subjects.
- D. a speculative statement about the relationship between two traits.

Type: D

20. Income, religion, race, gender, and marital status can all be examples of

- A. indexes.
- B. scales.
- C. variables.
- D. operational definitions.

Type: C

21. Which of the following can serve as a variable in a study?

- A. marital status
- B. ethnic background
- C. age
- D. all of these

Type: C

22. Which of the following would be considered the independent variable in the text research example cited by Schaefer in Chapter 2?

- A. level of education
- B. level of income
- C. sources of income
- D. all of these

Type: I

23. Social scientists call the variable that is hypothesized to cause or influence another variable a(an)

- A. independent variable.
- B. dependent variable.
- C. spurious variable.
- D. operational variable.

Type: D

24. Researchers find that pet owners live longer, healthier lives. Within this study pet ownership is the:

- A. independent variable.
- B. dependent variable.
- C. spurious variable.
- D. operational variable.

Type: C

25. Sociological studies have indicated that people who are married are less likely to commit suicide than people who are divorced. In this example, marital status is a(an)

- A. hypothesis.
- B. independent variable.
- C. dependent variable.
- D. index.

Type: C

26. Sociological studies have indicated that people who are married are less likely to commit suicide than people who are divorced. In this example, suicide is a(an)

- A. hypothesis.
- B. independent variable.
- C. dependent variable.
- D. index.

Type: C

27. The race of a criminal offender is associated with the frequency with which capital punishment is administered. In this example, capital punishment would be considered the
- A. hypothesis.
 - B. independent variable.
 - C. dependent variable.**
 - D. index.

Type: C

28. The relationship between a condition or a variable and a particular consequence, with one event leading to the other, is known as
- A. observation.
 - B. causal logic.**
 - C. a correlation.
 - D. an index.

Type: D

29. The statement "People who live in poverty have shorter life expectancies than wealthier citizens" is an example of
- A. causal logic.**
 - B. a correlation.
 - C. an independent variable.
 - D. the Hawthorne effect.

Type: C

30. The statement "Eating fewer fats and carbohydrates will lead to weight loss" is an example of
- A. causal logic.**
 - B. a dependent variable.
 - C. an independent variable.
 - D. a cross tabulation.

Type: C

31. The greater likelihood of a person who is less integrated into society committing suicide illustrates

- A. a defined variable.
- B. an undefined variable.
- C. causal logic.**
- D. a social fact.

Type: D

32. The relationship between two variables whereby a change in one coincides with a change in the other is known as a(an)

- A. index.
- B. correlation.**
- C. operational definition.
- D. scale.

Type: D

33. Individuals who have divorced parents are more likely to divorce than individuals who have parents who did not divorce. This statement is an example of a(an)

- A. theory.
- B. correlation.**
- C. independent variable.
- D. law.

Type: C

34. In which type of sample does each member of the entire population being studied have the same chance of being selected?

- A. random sample**
- B. quota sample
- C. index sample
- D. Roper sample

Type: D

35. If researchers wanted to examine the opinions of people listed in a city directory, they might call every tenth or fiftieth or hundredth name listed. This would constitute a
- A. scale.
 - B. control variable.
 - C. quota sample.
 - D.** random sample.

Type: C

36. A research measure that provides consistent results is considered
- A. valid.
 - B.** reliable.
 - C. an index.
 - D. a scale.

Type: D

37. Valid research measures
- A. provide consistent results.
 - B. are always independent, rather than dependent, variables.
 - C.** accurately measure the phenomenon under study.
 - D. are ethical standards that are followed by sociologists.

Type: I

38. Which of the following would be considered a valid measure of an individual's intelligence?
- A. his or her age
 - B. the researcher's opinion
 - C. the number of years of school that the individual has completed
 - D.** none of these

Type: C

39. What type of sample would a researcher employ in order to study illegal drug users?

- A. snowball sample
- B. random sample
- C. convenience sample
- D.** snowball sample AND convenience sample

Type: C

40. What was the source of the data collected in the research example given by Schaefer in Chapter 2?

- A. city directories
- B.** the Current Population Survey
- C. phone surveys
- D. college and university surveys

Type: I

41. A factor held constant to test the relative impact of the independent variable is known as a

- A.** control variable.
- B. dependent variable.
- C. correlation.
- D. cross-tabulation.

Type: D

42. A research design is a(an):

- A. explanation of an abstract concept that is specific enough to allow a researcher to measure the concept.
- B. speculative statement about the relationship between two or more variables.
- C. indicator of attitudes, behavior, or characteristics of people or organizations.
- D.** detailed plan or method for scientifically obtaining data.

Type: D

43. Selecting a research design is important because it may affect both the amount of time and the

- A. validity of the study.
- B.** cost of the project.
- C. reliability of the study.
- D. scale of the project.

Type: I

44. A study, generally in the form of an interview or a questionnaire that provides sociologists with information concerning how people think or act is known as

- A. observation research.
- B.** a survey.
- C. secondary analysis.
- D. an experiment.

Type: D

45. To conduct a cross-cultural study of job discrimination against women, a sociologist interviews 75 women between the ages of 20 and 40 in an American city, and 75 women in the same age group in a Canadian city. This study would be classified as

- A. a secondary analysis.
- B. participant observation.
- C.** a survey.
- D. a content analysis.

Type: C

46. Surveys and interviews that focus on macrosociological analyses would be likely to follow which theoretical perspective?

- A. functionalist perspective
- B. conflict perspective
- C. interactionist perspective
- D.** both functionalist and conflict perspectives

Type: P

47. The results of an interview may be influenced by

- A. the gender of the interviewer.
- B. the race of the interviewer.
- C. neither gender nor race of the interviewer.
- D.** both gender and race of the interviewer.

Type: I

48. Observation research is the most common form of _____ research, which relies on what is seen in the field and in naturalistic settings more than it does on statistical data.

- A. quantitative
- B.** qualitative
- C. ethnographic
- D. experimental

Type: D

49. What method can researchers employ in order to counter bias in their sampling?

- A. snowball sampling
- B.** weighting
- C. convenience sample
- D. non-random surveying

Type: I

50. Researchers found which of the following to be true of cell phone users compared to landline users?

- A. more likely to screen incoming calls
- B. more likely to break off a call mid-survey
- C. higher proportion of non-adults on cell phones
- D.** all of these

Type: I

51. When a researcher collects information about a group through direct involvement and inspection, this is known as

- A. a survey.
- B.** observation.
- C. secondary analysis.
- D. an experiment.

Type: D

52. A sociologist attends meetings at all the schools and churches in his community over several years, and meets as many residents as he can for the purpose of exploring all facets of the community's social life. He then compiles a detailed description of the community. He is conducting a(an)

- A. content analysis.
- B. secondary analysis.
- C. quantitative study.
- D.** ethnography.

Type: C

53. The initial challenge that William F. Whyte and other participant observers encounter is
- A. maintaining their objectivity when studying people face-to-face.
 - B. formulating the sequence of questions in an interview.
 - C. determining which group will be the experimental group.
 - D.** gaining acceptance into an unfamiliar group.

Type: I

54. _____'s study of Italian street-corner men used participant observation.
- A. Terry Mizrahi
 - B.** William F. Whyte
 - C. Max Weber
 - D. Vilfredo Pareto

Type: S

55. When a sociologist actually joins a group for a period to get an accurate sense of how it operates, the approach is called
- A. an experiment.
 - B. ethnography.
 - C. face-to-face interview.
 - D.** participant observation.

Type: P

56. Which of the following was *not* one of the goals of social scientists embedded with the U.S. military in Afghanistan and Iraq?
- A. identify local customs
 - B. report on kinship structures
 - C.** conduct experiments on local communities
 - D. identify local internal social conflicts

Type: I

57. An artificially created situation that allows the researcher to manipulate variables and to introduce control variables is known as a(an)

- A. survey.
- B.** experiment.
- C. replication.
- D. research design.

Type: D

58. In an experiment, the group that is not exposed to the independent variable is called the

- A. experimental group.
- B. representative group.
- C. study group.
- D.** control group.

Type: D

59. A sociologist sets up an experiment on television violence and children. She shows one set of children (group A) violent cartoons and then observes their play. She shows a second set of children (group B) non-violent cartoons and then observes their play. Which of these groups would be considered the experimental group?

- A.** Group A
- B. Group B
- C. Neither group
- D. Both groups

Type: C

60. People may behave differently in artificial situations than they would in the "real world". This poses a particular problem for researchers using

- A. questionnaires.
- B. content analysis.
- C. replication.
- D.** laboratory experiments.

Type: I

61. Regina wants to study the homeless in her hometown. In order to do so, she lives at a homeless shelter for a month. During this time, she does everything that the women she is studying does and tells no one of her true identity. This method would be:

- A. an experiment.
- B. ethnography.
- C. face-to-face interview.
- D.** participant observation.

Type: C

62. What term do sociologists use to describe the phenomenon whereby subjects deviate from their typical behavior because they realize they are under observation?

- A. the control group effect
- B. the spurious response
- C.** the Hawthorne effect
- D. skewing

Type: I

63. A sociologist decides to study the interaction among students in the college's computer center. When the students realize they are under observation, they become shy and reserved in their interactions. This is an example of
- A. replication.
 - B. secondary analysis.
 - C. the Hawthorne effect.
 - D. value neutrality.

Type: C

64. Secondary analysis includes a variety of research techniques that use
- A. questionnaires and interviews.
 - B. participant observation.
 - C. publicly accessible information and data, or data collected by another.
 - D. control groups.

Type: D

65. Information on historical naming trends discussed in Chapter 2 illustrates the fact that
- A. Americans use the same names over and over.
 - B. names for boys and girls do not vary by race and ethnicity.
 - C. available information can be used for sociological research.
 - D. secondary research is just for fun.

Type: P

66. Sociologists consider secondary analysis to be
- A. more valid than other forms of research.
 - B. more reliable than other forms of research.
 - C. a nonreactive form of research.
 - D. an outdated mode of research.

Type: I

67. Which of the following sociologists conducted an examination of suicide using secondary analysis?

- A. Max Weber
- B. Émile Durkheim**
- C. Jane Poulsen
- D. William F. Whyte

Type: S

68. An inherent problem in using secondary sources of data is that

- A. the researcher may not find the exact data needed for his/her own research.**
- B. the data are plagued with statistical errors.
- C. the researcher may be more careless when using someone else's data.
- D. all of the analysis has been completed by an initial research team.

Type: I

69. A researcher studies adolescent attitudes about senior citizens by analyzing depictions of the elderly in the lyrics of popular music and the content of teen magazines. This is an example of

- A. content analysis.**
- B. replication.
- C. survey research.
- D. an experiment.

Type: C

70. When was sociology's code of ethics first published?

- A. 1871
- B. 1917
- C. 1947
- D. 1971**

Type: S

71. The code of ethics for the discipline of sociology was developed by
- A. Max Weber.
 - B. the U.S. Department of Education.
 - C. the American Association of University Professors.
 - D.** the American Sociological Association.

Type: I

72. Which of the following is included in the code of ethics for sociology?
- A. maintaining confidentiality
 - B. objectivity and integrity in research
 - C. protection of research subjects from personal harm
 - D.** all of these

Type: I

73. Which of the following is not incorporated into the basic principles of the code of ethics for sociology?
- A.** a required number of data sources
 - B. respect for subjects' privacy
 - C. acknowledgment of research collaboration
 - D. disclosure of sources of financial support

Type: I

74. Which of the following existing data sources are used more frequently for sociological research?
- A.** census data
 - B. scientific records
 - C. personal journals
 - D. newspapers

Type: I

75. Why was Rik Scarce, a doctoral student at Washington State University, placed in jail in 1993?

- A. for preserving the confidentiality of his research
- B. for raiding a university laboratory
- C. for "snitching" on university administrators
- D. for forging transcripts

Type: D

76. Which of the following is true regarding actions by the Exxon Corporation after the 1989 *Valdez* disaster?

- A. Exxon solicited sociologists to do research on jury deliberations.
- B. Exxon offered research money for sociologists doing research on jury deliberations.
- C. Some of the research funded by Exxon was published in peer-reviewed journals.
- D. all of these

Type: I

77. Which of the following does your textbook note as a common criticism of Exxon's actions after the 1989 *Valdez* disaster?

- A. Exxon didn't pay sociologists well enough for the research they did on jury deliberations.
- B. Exxon agreed to fund only those sociologists who were known to be in favor of Exxon's policies and actions.
- C. No legal scholars were approached to do research on jury deliberations.
- D. Exxon didn't volunteer to fund research on clean-up technologies or long-term environmental costs.

Type: I

78. "Value neutrality" in social science research was initially called for by

- A. Émile Durkheim.
- B. W.E.B. Du Bois.
- C.** Max Weber.
- D. William Zellner.

Type: S

79. According to Max Weber, investigators have an ethical obligation to accept research findings even when the data run counter to

- A. their own personal views.
- B. theoretically based explanations.
- C. widely accepted beliefs.
- D.** all of these

Type: I

80. *The Death of White Sociology*, which called attention to the tendency of mainstream sociology to treat the lives of African Americans as a social problem, was written by

- A. Erving Goffman.
- B. Alvin Gouldner.
- C.** Joyce Ladner.
- D. Shulamit Reinharz.

Type: S

81. Which sociologist argued that sociological research should focus on social change and on relevant research developed by nonsociologists?

- A. Jane Poulson
- B. Joyce Ladner
- C.** Shulamit Reinharz
- D. Karen Barkey

Type: S

82. After the conclusion of his/her research on the homeless in Chicago, which sociologist stated that "in the short term, good social research will often be greeted as a betrayal of one or another side"?

- A. Erving Goffman
- B. Alvin Gouldner
- C. Joyce Ladner
- D.** Peter Rossi

Type: I

83. Which of the following locations traditionally would be of interest to a feminist researcher?

- A. playgrounds
- B. grocery stores
- C. front stoops
- D.** all of these

Type: I

84. Feminist researchers would be most interested in which of the following aspects of global research?

- A. industrial nations' GDP as related to exports
- B.** global trafficking of sex workers
- C. how multinational corporations fit into world-systems theory
- D. the role of poor men in terrorist activities

Type: I

85. Which of the following is true regarding feminist researchers?

- A. tend to involve and consult subjects more
- B. more oriented towards seeking change
- C. want to raise public consciousness
- D.** all of these

Type: I

86. What is a potential problem when sending out Internet-based surveys?
- A. protection of the respondent's anonymity
 - B. defining the potential audience
 - C. the high costs of money and time
 - D.** protection of the respondent's anonymity AND defining the potential audience

Type: I

87. We have little reliable data on human sexuality because
- A. it is difficult for researchers to obtain accurate information about this sensitive subject.
 - B. until the AIDS crisis, there was little scientific demand for data on sexual behavior.
 - C. government funding for studies of sexual behavior is controversial.
 - D.** all of these

Type: P

Type: S

88. The authors of the National Health and Social Life Survey argue that their research on human sexual behavior is important and that using data from their survey allows policy makers to more easily address issues such as AIDS, sexual harassment, welfare reform, abortion, and teenage pregnancy. This position best reflects the view of which sociological perspective?
- A.** functionalist perspective
 - B. conflict perspective
 - C. interactionist perspective
 - D. feminist perspective

Type: P

Type: S

89. Which of the following is used to show the portion of 100?
- A. mean
 - B. mode
 - C. median
 - D.** percentage

Type: D

90. The number calculated by adding a series of values and then dividing by the number of values is referred to as the

- A. mean.
- B. mode.
- C. median.
- D. percentage.

Type: D

91. The single most common value in a series of scores is referred to as the

- A. mean.
- B. mode.
- C. median.
- D. percentage.

Type: D

92. The midpoint or number which divides a series of values into two groups of equal numbers of values is referred to as the

- A. mean.
- B. mode.
- C. median.
- D. percentage.

Type: D

93. Which number would be considered the mode of the following: 10-10-9-9-8-8-7-7-7-6-5?

- A. 10
- B. 8
- C. 7
- D. 5

Type: D

94. What is a popular form of summary many sociologists utilize to quickly and clearly show a relationship between two variables?

- A.** cross-tabulation
- B. median
- C. mode
- D. mean

Type: I

True / False Questions

95. The third step in the scientific method is reviewing the literature.

FALSE

96. In the statement, "the more a person exercises, the longer he or she will live", longevity is the independent variable.

FALSE

97. Correlations are an indication that causality is always present.

FALSE

98. A magazine asks its readers to complete a survey that questions them about their sexual practices. Based on the responses that it receives, the magazine publishes an article entitled "The Sexual Practices of Men and Women in the U.S". This magazine has conducted a valid random sample to support its article.

FALSE

99. *Validity* refers to the degree to which a measure or scale truly reflects the phenomenon under study.

TRUE

100. Selection of a research design will influence both the cost of a research project and the amount of time needed to collect the results of the research.

TRUE

101. An interviewer is likely to obtain a higher response rate than a printed survey form would.

TRUE

102. Content analysis of recent films has been used to demonstrate an increase in the amount of smoking shown in motion pictures.

TRUE

103. In criticizing the call for a value-free sociology, Alvin Gouldner suggests that sociologists may use objectivity as a sacred justification for remaining uncritical of existing institutions and centers of power.

TRUE

104. After working with a team of researchers in an attempt to measure the extent of homelessness in Chicago in the mid-1980s, sociologist Peter Rossi was praised by members of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless for his commitment to rigorous research methods and objective interpretation of data.

FALSE

105. All research designs have positives and negatives associated with them.

TRUE

106. A hypothesis is a speculative statement about the relationship between two variables.

TRUE

Essay Questions

107. Define the term "scientific method" and the five basic steps used in the scientific method.

Answers will vary

108. Discuss how a researcher might select a random sample of subjects for a research study. Which sample selection methods should researchers use, and which methods should be avoided?

Answers will vary

109. Describe the various types of research designs and discuss the strengths and weakness of each design. Which type of research design is most commonly used by researchers, and which type of research design is the least reliable?

Answers will vary

110. Discuss the issue of ethics and social research. Give examples of how research could be harmful to human life.

Answers will vary

111. Describe how the Internet can be used to conduct social research. Is the Internet a good or bad place to conduct social research?

Answers will vary

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112. Discuss the various ways feminist scholars differ in their interests and methodology from other scholars. Feminist scholarship would be considered functionalist, interactionist, or a conflict perspective?

Answers will vary