Chapter 2: The Process and Problems of Social Research

Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. A social research question can emerge from _____.
A. a researcher's own experience
 B. other research
 C. social theory
 D. all of these
ANS: D
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Identifying Social Research Questions
Difficulty Level: Medium

2. The scientific relevance of a research question refers to its _____.
A. ability to start and finish within a time limit
 B. ability to generate specific suggestions for social policy
C. ability to resolve contradictions in or advance social theory
D. ability to make a difference in the social world
ANS: C
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Evaluating Social Research Questions
Difficulty Level: Easy

3. The results of Sherman and Berk's (1984) study of the impact of arrest on repeat calls to the police department for domestic violence supported _____.
A. symbolic interactionism
 B. deterrence theory
 C. labeling theory
 D. conflict theory
ANS: B
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Social Theories
Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Deductive theory begins with which element?
A. social theory
B. hypothesis testing
C. empirical generalization
D. descriptive research
ANS: A
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Deductive Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

5. What is not one of the stages of developing a good research question?
A. identifying one or more questions for study
B. refining the questions
C. refining the questions
D. pretesting the questions
ANS: D
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Social Research Questions
Difficulty Level: Medium

6. A variable that is hypothesized to vary depending on the influence of another variable is called a(n) _____.
A. control variable
 B. sependent variable
C. independent variable
D. dichotomous variable
ANS: B
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Explanatory Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

7. _____ is an example of an electronic bibliographic database that is appropriate for searching the scholarly literature.
A. Sociological Abstracts
 B. Lexis Nexis
 C. Google
 D. Yahoo
ANS: A
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Searching the Literature
Difficulty Level: Medium

8. Which of the following is an example of a positive direction of association in a hypothesis?
A. As an individual's level of education increases, prejudice decreases.
B. The more sexual partners a person has, the more likely he or she is to be exposed to sexually transmitted diseases.
C. As computer literacy increases, amount of social interaction declines.
D. As household income decreases, percentage of income devoted to housing increases.
ANS: B
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Explanatory Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

9. Which of the following is an example of a negative direction of association.
A. As number of hours of TV watched per week increases, number of hours spent reading per week decreases.
B. The more extracurricular activities in which a student participates, the more likely the student will describe his or her school experience as positive.
C. As an individual's income decreases, so does the likelihood that he or she will vote.
D. The higher an individual's score on a depression index, the more likely that he or she will attempt suicide.
ANS: A
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Explanatory Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

10. After data have been collected, researchers sometimes find patterns that are unexpected, but nonetheless surprising and exciting. These types of patterns are known as _____.
A. empirical
B. generalizable
C. descriptive
D. serendipitous
ANS: D
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Explanatory Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

11. Kai Erikson went to Buffalo Creek, West Virginia in 1972 following a highly destructive flood. Based on his interviews with residents and after spending considerable time in Buffalo Creek, Erikson theorized that the damage to the social ties in the community caused by natural disasters were just as destructive as the physical damage to the affected community. Erikson's study is a good example of what kind of research?
A. descriptive
B. exploratory
C. inductive
D. deductive
ANS: C
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Explanatory Research
Difficulty Level: Hard

12. Examples of Boolean connectors in electronic bibliographic searches are _____.
A. AND and OR
B. date and journal title
C. key word and author

D. quotation marks and semicolons
ANS: A
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Searching the Literature
Difficulty Level: Medium

13. The primary reason that articles published in social science journals are superior to information found on the Internet is _____.
A. Social science journals are more recent.
B. Articles in social science journals are subject to a review process.
C. Social science reports are not available on the Internet.
D. Articles in social science journals contain more accurate bibliographies.
ANS: B
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Searching the Literature
Difficulty Level: Easy

14. The primary focus of a search for social science literature should be _____.
A. relevant books
B. government documents
C. social science journals
D. the Internet
ANS: C
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Searching the Literature
Difficulty Level: Easy

15. In the process of creating a literature review, a researcher should check for relevance after locating journal articles through an index search by _____.
A. consulting online databases
B. checking Internet-based sources for similar results
C. locating the articles in the social science citation index
D. reading the articles' abstracts
ANS: D
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Reviewing Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

16. Inductive explanations are more trustworthy if they are subsequently tested _____.
A. with a research circle
B. using an online database
C. by reviewing the literature
D. with deductive research
ANS: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Explanatory Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

17. The most popular Internet search engine at the time that the Schutt text was published is _____.
A. Yahoo!
B. Sociological Abstracts
C. Lexis Nexis
D. Google
ANS: D
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Searching the Web
Difficulty Level: Easy

18. When citing a website, which of the following is NOT necessary?
A. web address
B. the name of the information provider
C. the copyright date
D. the date on which you obtain material from the cite
ANS: C
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Searching the Web
Difficulty Level: Easy

19. Which of the following is not a question to consider when assessing the relative credibility of a social science journal article.
A. How was the report reviewed prior to its publication or release?
B. What is the author's reputation?
C. Who funded the research?
D. How many researchers were involved in the research?
ANS: D
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Searching the Literature
Difficulty Level: Medium

20. Which of the following exists when a measure measures what we think it measures?
A. causal validity
B. generalizability
C. measurement validity
D. authenticity
ANS: C
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Social Research Standards
Difficulty Level: Easy

21. When a conclusion that A leads to or results in B is correct, it's called _____.
A. causal validity
B. measurement validity
C. sample generalizability
D. authenticity
ANS: A
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Social Research Standards
Difficulty Level: Easy

22. Another name for causal validity is _____.
A. external validity
B. international validity
C. sample validity
D. internal validity
ANS: D
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Social Research Standards
Difficulty Level: Easy

23. External validity can also be called _____.
A. internal validity
B. sample generalizability
C. cross-population generalizability
D. measurement validity
ANS: C
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Social Research Standards
Difficulty Level: Easy

24. What should provide "a valid mirror on reality"?
A. external validity
B. internal validity
C. authenticity
D. causal validity
ANS: C
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Social Research Standards
Difficulty Level: Medium

25. The Metro-Dade Spouse Assault Experiment (Pate & Hamilton 1992) replicated Sherman and Berk's (1984) Minneapolis Domestic Violence Experiment but added what variable to the investigation?
A. informal social control

B. race
C. income
D. recidivism
ANS: A
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Explanatory Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

26. The Latin phrase that the author believes best should guide a researcher's reliance on information gleaned from the Internet is _____.
A. nulle poene signe lege
B. e pluribus unum
C. carpe diem
D. caveat emptor
ANS: D
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Searching the Web
Difficulty Level: Medium

27. In order to write up an effective literature review, researchers should use reports that have been _____.
A. proved wrong
B. found in newspapers and magazines
C. screened for quality and critiqued by other social scientists
D. all of these
ANS: C
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Reviewing Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

28. Scholarly journals that are made up of peer-reviewed articles that are critiqued before publication are called _____.
A. refereed journals
B. professional journals
C. journals of social science
D. respected journals
ANS: A
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Searching the Literature
Difficulty Level: Easy

29. Which of the following is NOT a step when searching the literature?
A. specify your research question
B. use any article pertaining to your research question no matter how vague
C. identify appropriate bibliographic databases to search

D. create a tentative list of search items
ANS: B
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Searching the Literature
Difficulty Level: Easy

30. According to Schutt, when is the appropriate time during the study to locate relevant research literature?
A. at the beginning so that the researcher can construct a research question
B. at the end of the study to back up findings
C. only when someone asks for a literature review
D. throughout the study since literature is constantly growing
ANS: D
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Searching the Literature
Difficulty Level: Easy

True/False

1. Social research questions may emerge from your own experience.
ANS: T
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Identifying Social Research Questions
Difficulty Level: Easy

2. A good social research question should not have to be refined or revised.
ANS: F
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Refining Social Research Questions
Difficulty Level: Easy

3. Social importance is a relative concept when deciding on a research question.
ANS: T
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Evaluating Social Research Questions
Difficulty Level: Medium

4. Measurement validity exists when a measure measures what we think it measures.
ANS: T
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Measurement Validity
Difficulty Level: Easy

5. Because of the more rigorous review process, research published in social science journals must be consulted for a literature review.

ANS: T
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Searching the Literature
Difficulty Level: Easy

6. Every research question should be grounded in the social science research literature.
ANS: T
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Identifying Social Research Questions
Difficulty Level: Easy

7. If you read an article, you should cite it in your literature review even if it is not directly relevant to your study.
ANS: F
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Reviewing Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

8. The Minneapolis Domestic Violence Experiment was a replication of the Metro-Dade Spouse Assault Experiment.
ANS: F
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Identifying Social Research Questions
Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Deductive research involves deriving specific expectations from general theoretical premises.
ANS: T
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Explanatory Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

10. Causal validity exists when a conclusion holds true for the population or group that we think it does.
ANS: F
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Causal Validity
Difficulty Level: Easy

11. The independent variable is the effect or consequence of the dependent variable.
ANS: F
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Explanatory Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

12. Papers presented at professional conferences are subject to the same rigorous peer review as refereed journals.
ANS: F
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Searching the Literature
Difficulty Level: Easy

13. A negative direction of association occurs when as the independent variable decreases, so does the dependent variable.
ANS: F
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Explanatory Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

14. Generalizability is when a conclusion that A leads to or results in B is correct.
ANS: T
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Causal Validity
Difficulty Level: Easy

15. Empirical generalizations are patterns found in existing data.
ANS: T
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Explanatory Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

16. Descriptive research does not involve connecting theory and data.
ANS: T
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Descriptive Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

17. When an independent variable decreases, and the dependent variable also decreases, the direction of association is negative.
ANS: F
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Explanatory Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

18. Authenticity is when the understanding of a social process is one that reflects fairly on various participants in that setting.
ANS: T
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Authenticity
Difficulty Level: Easy

19. Inductive explanations are more trustworthy if they are tested subsequently with deductive research.
ANS: T
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Inductive Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

20. Sample generalizability exists when a conclusion based on a sample of a larger population holds true for that population.
ANS: T
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Generalizability
Difficulty Level: Easy

Essay Questions
1. Define validity and authenticity as goals of social research. Explain why both are important for generating social science.
ANS: A. Causal validity--truthfulness of an assertion that A causes B; internal validity; social scientists are most concerned with correlation and what causes what; authenticity--reflects a belief that those who study the social world should focus first on how participants view their surroundings; focus attention on the subjectivity of the participants.
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Causal Validity
Difficulty Level: Hard

2. In which circumstances are descriptive, exploratory, explanatory, and evaluation research appropriate? Give an example for each.
ANS: Descriptive--research that does not involve connecting theory and data; helps answer questions such as how many people are in a community and how frequently do convicted criminals return to committing crime?; exploratory--researchers begin by observing and then develop an explanation; used when researchers are trying to observe what is happening; explanatory--moving from theory to data to findings; used to explain a preexisting social phenomena; evaluation--determines the effectiveness of programs, policies, and other efforts put in place to affect social patterns.
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Social Research Strategies
Difficulty Level: Hard

3. A researcher asks five questions of a sample of community residents to find out how much they fear crime and whether their level of fear was influenced by a recent well-publicized murder in the community. Explain what the three dimensions of validity would refer to in this study and why they are important.
ANS: Measurement validity--questions measure what they are suppose to measure; generalizability--can these questions and findings based on these questions be applied

to the general public; internal validity--does the findings from these questions reflect the level of fear in the community.
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Social Research Standards
Difficulty Level: Hard

4. Outline the procedure for conducting a literature review of social scientific literature. Describe how articles are assessed for credibility. Describe how articles are coordinated to create an integrated literature review.
ANS: Refereed journals; focus on reports that have been screened for quality and critiqued by other social scientists; steps: (1) specify your research question; (2) identify appropriate bibliographic databases to search; (3) create a tentative list of search items; (4) narrow your search; (5) use appropriate subject descriptors; (6) check the results and identify articles that are most relevant; (7) locate the articles; it is an ongoing process since the literature is constantly changing.
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Social Research Foundations
Difficulty Level: Hard

5. How does descriptive research differ from inductive and deductive research? In what circumstances is descriptive research commonly found?
ANS: Descriptive research does not link theory and data; used in research done by the government as well as public and private organizations; answers questions like: How many people reside in a community? What is the percentage of poor within this community? Is the health of the elderly improving?; can stimulate deductive and inductive research.
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Social Research Strategies
Difficulty Level: Hard

6. What is the difference between exploratory and explanatory research?
ANS: Exploratory--researchers begin by observing and then develop an explanation; used when researchers are trying to observe what is happening; inductive research; explanatory--moving from theory to data to findings; used to explain a preexisting social phenomena; deductive research
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Social Research Strategies
Difficulty Level: Medium

7. Describe in detail the process of searching for information on the web and in the social science literature. How might you assess the credibility of sources from the web and from the literature? List and explain at least four reasons why articles in social science journals are preferable in social research to most web pages.
ANS: Steps: (1) specify your research question; (2) identify appropriate bibliographic databases to search; (3) create a tentative list of search items; (4) narrow your search;

(5) use appropriate subject descriptors; (6) check the results and identify articles that are most relevant; (7) locate the articles; it is an ongoing process since the literature is constantly changing; use identifiable databases such as Sociological Abstracts, SocINDEX, and Psychological Absracts for credible journal articles; warnings for searching the web: (1) sheer quantity of resources that are available; (2) quality is not guaranteed; (3) websites often change or disappear altogether; (4) different search engines use different ways of pulling information together; (5) generalizability issues.
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Social Research Foundations
Difficulty Level: Hard

8. Describe the research circle that connects social theory to data collection. What are the principle components of this research circle? Using an example of your own choosing, describe two research designs based on this circle: one using inductive logic and one using deductive logic. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each of these designs?
ANS: Principle components--theory, hypothesis, data, empirical generalizations; deductive reasoning--specific explanation is deduced from a general premise and is then tested; inductive reasoning--general conclusions are drawn from specific data.
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Explanatory Research
Difficulty Level: Hard

9. Schutt states "the adequacy of an explanation formulated after the fact is necessarily less certain than an explanation presented prior to the collection of data" (p. 44). Explain in your own words what this statement means for students who will be conducting research of their own.
ANS: Deductive reasoning, inductive reasoning, and inductive explanations are more trustworthy if they are tested subsequently with deductive research.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Inductive Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Discuss the research of Sherman and Berk (1984) on the effect of arrest on domestic abuse. What was their research hypothesis? What were their independent and dependent variables? Describe how their hypothesis was designed to test deterrence theory and labeling theory. For which theory did their hypothesis provide support? How did later studies improve on this initial research?
ANS: Sherman and Berk (1984) evaluated the effectiveness of various police responses to domestic violence calls in Minneapolis, MN, by asking 51 officers to do one of the three approaches: (1) send the abuser away for 8 hr; (2) advise and mediate; and (3) make an arrest; they found that arrest was the most effective police response; the independent variable was the type of approach, whereas the dependent variable was whether or not the perpetrator reoffended; deterrence theory--assumes the people's

criminal behavior is shaped by cost–benefit calculations; labeling theory--uses a symbolic interactionist approach to explain deviance as an offender's reaction to the application of rules and sanctions; their hypothesis provided support for deterrence theory; Pate and Hamilton (1992).
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Explanatory Research
Difficulty Level: Hard

11. Write a brief explanation of the concept of validity and its three dimensions. To illustrate your explanations, describe what they would refer to in a hypothetical study of drug abuse in American suburbs.
ANS: Measurement validity--questions measure what they are supposed to measure; generalizability--can these questions and findings based on these questions be applied to the general public; internal validity--do the findings from these questions reflect the level of fear in the community.
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Social Research Standards
Difficulty Level: Hard