Test Bank for Practice of Social Research 15th Babbie

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Name:_____ Class:_____ Date:_____

Chapter 01

Multiple Choice

1. Methodology differs from epistemology in that methodology is
   a. the science of knowing.
   b. the science of finding out.
   c. the discovery of reality through agreement.
   d. only found through tradition.
   e. the logical aspect of science.

ANSWER: b

2. Epistemology is best described as
   a. the science of knowing.
   b. the discovery of reality through experimentation.
   c. the discovery of reality through agreement.
   d. tradition.
   e. authority.

ANSWER: a

3. Professor Rodgers found that the average level of happiness reported by people under 65 years of age declined from 1957 to 1970. However, for this same group, the average level of happiness increased slightly from 1970 to 1978. Rodgers also found that the average level of happiness reported by people age 65 and older increased from 1957 to 1978. An(the) independent variable(s) in this study is(are)
   a. people.
   b. level of happiness.
   c. age.
   d. gender.
   e. marital status.

ANSWER: c

4. Social science theory addresses
   a. what should be.
   b. what is.
   c. what is not.
   d. beliefs.
   e. philosophy.

ANSWER: b

5. Which of the following would a sociologist be LEAST likely to study?
   a. Crime rates increasing in rural areas
   b. The incidence of child abuse in middle-income families
   c. Mr. Smith quitting his job
   d. The incidence of unemployment among white-collar workers
   e. Difference in unemployment rates between black teens and white teens

ANSWER: c

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6. As students we learn that studying hard causes good grades. Such cause and effect are _____ in nature.
   a. Theoretical
   b. Idiographic
   c. Probabilistic
   d. Independent
   e. Qualitative

ANSWER: c

7. One of your friends scored in the 90s on her last ten exams. Although she has been studying for this exam and feels prepared, she told you, "I know I'm going to flunk this exam. I've been doing too well on exams." Your friend is committing the error of
   a. illogical reasoning.
   b. theory.
   c. inaccurate observation.
   d. selective observation.
   e. overgeneralization.

ANSWER: a

8. A form of human interference in which what we learn about society can change reality so what we learned is not true is known as being
   a. trivial.
   b. exceptional.
   c. recursive.
   d. dismissive.
   e. evolutionary.

ANSWER: c

9. Researchers analyzed the effects of race on sexual activity among adolescent women. The dependent variable is
   a. race.
   b. sexual activity.
   c. adolescence.
   d. women.
   e. age.

ANSWER: b

10. Which of the following is an aim of social science?
   a. Finding patterns in social life
   b. Predicting social phenomena
   c. Understanding individual behavior
   d. Explaining theories
   e. Replicating studies

ANSWER: a

11. After examining divorce court records, Jenny concludes that mothers are more likely than fathers to obtain custody of

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their children. This type of statement is
a. nomothetic and deterministic.
b. idiographic and deterministic.
c. deductive and deterministic.
d. nomothetic and probabilistic.
e. idiographic and probabilistic.

ANSWER: d

12. In comparison to nonscientific inquiry, scientific inquiry
a. takes special precaution to avoid error.
b. is a semiconscious activity.
c. is an activity where we are less concerned about making mistakes.
d. guards against all errors.
e. creates bias.

ANSWER: a

13. An independent variable is a
a. theoretical concept.
b. variable influencing other variables.
c. variable influenced by other variables.
d. set of attributes.
e. variable influencing other variables or a variable influenced by others.

ANSWER: b

14. Which of the following is(are) a probabilistic statement(s)?
a. When serving as jurors, women always vote for acquittal.
b. When serving as jurors, women never vote for acquittal.
c. When serving as jurors, women tend to vote for acquittal.
d. When serving as jurors, women do not vote for acquittal.
e. When serving as jurors, women always generally vote for acquittal.

ANSWER: c

15. Which of the following is most likely to be a list of variables?
a. Female, Jewish, educational level
b. Plumber, professor, dentist
c. Occupation, political party preference, birthrate
d. 21, violent, social class
e. Dishonest, conservative, farmer

ANSWER: c

16. Quantification
a. often makes our observations more explicit.
b. can make it more difficult to aggregate data.
c. can make it more difficult to summarize data.

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d. limits the possibility of statistical analyses.
e. can increase bias.

ANSWER: a

17. The ability to have two different, conflicting ideas in one's mind simultaneously without denying or dismissing either of them is known as
a. nomothetic thinking.
b. tolerance for ambiguity.
c. idiographic thinking.
d. probabilistic thinking.
e. free will.

ANSWER: b

18. Pregnant at age 15, Tammy decided to have her baby. Her parents were upset with her decision and threatened to "cut her off" if she did not complete high school. A difficult pregnancy and embarrassment resulted in Tammy dropping out of school. After the baby was born, her parents said that they would raise the baby but that she would have to leave the house. At age 16, Tammy was on her own and without any money or job market skills. She began to work as a prostitute. This explanation of Tammy's prostitution is
a. idiographic.
b. nomothetic.
c. probabilistic.
d. quantitative.
e. based on agreements.

ANSWER: a

19. Qualitative explanations tend to be _____ and quantitative explanations tend to be _____.
a. idiographic; idiographic
b. nomothetic; nomothetic
c. idiographic; nomothetic
d. nomothetic; idiographic
e. deductive; inductive

ANSWER: c

20. The development and implementation of simple and complex measurement devices is a safeguard against
a. overgeneralization.
b. abuse of authority.
c. inaccurate observation.
d. illogical reasoning.
e. tradition.

ANSWER: c

21. Which of the following is FALSE concerning the use of tradition in inquiry?
a. It helps avoid the task of starting from scratch in our search for regularities.
b. It demonstrates that knowledge is cumulative.

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c. The jumping-off part for the development of knowledge is often the inherited body of information.
d. It enables us to seek a different understanding of what we all know to be true.
e. It increases our bias.

ANSWER: d

22. Fred's biology teacher told him about the "birds and the bees." By relying on his biology teacher's explanation, Fred relies on _____ as a way of knowing.
a. experience
b. tradition
c. authority
d. the misuse of authority
e. theory

ANSWER: c

23. The analysis of deviant cases—cases that do not fit the general pattern—helps guard against _____
a. illogical reasoning.
b. inaccurate observation.
c. the misuse of authority.
d. selective observation.
e. theory.

ANSWER: d

24. Female, ages 18 to 25, brown hair, and teacher are examples of
a. variables.
b. social regularities.
c. aggregates.
d. attributes.
e. nomothetic analyses.

ANSWER: d

25. The contradiction of scientific research in which we exert our free will or are the product of our environment is
a. idiographic versus nomothetic thinking.
b. determinism versus agency.
c. induction versus deduction.
d. epistemology versus methodology.
e. qualitative versus quantitative.

ANSWER: b

True / False

26. If an exception is found to a sociological pattern, the pattern is invalid.
a. True
b. False

ANSWER: False

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27. Patterns of cause and effect are probabilistic in nature.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: True

28. Idiographic explanations are inductive and nomothetic explanations are deductive.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: False

29. The variable age has the attribute of 18 to 24.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: True

30. Social science theories try to explain why aggregated patterns of behavior are so regular, even when the individuals participating in them may change over time.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: True

31. We can predict without understanding.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: True

32. There is never a time that we should generalize.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: False

33. Every observation is quantitative at the outset.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: False

34. Social regularities are probabilistic patterns.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: True

35. Nomothetic reasoning is more useful than idiographic reasoning.
    a. True
    b. False

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ANSWER: False

Essay

36. Discuss how scientific inquiry tries to avoid the common pitfalls that produce error in nonscientific inquiry.
ANSWER: Answers may vary.

37. Name five sociological variables and their attributes.
ANSWER: Answers may vary.

38. What are two strengths and two weaknesses of qualitative and quantitative approaches to social research? How do researchers choose which to use?
ANSWER: Answers may vary.

39. Why is overgeneralization a problem in causal inquiries? How can a researcher keep from making this kind of error?
ANSWER: Answers may vary.

40. What is a social regularity? Why do social scientists focus on patterns rather than individuals?
ANSWER: Answers may vary.

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