Test Bank for Applied Social Research A Tool for the Human Services 10th Hilton

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Test Bank for

APPLIED SOCIAL RESEARCH: A TOOL FOR THE HUMAN SERVICES

10th Edition

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CHAPTER 1

RESEARCH IN THE HUMAN SERVICES

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. How can properly conducted practice interventions inform research about human behavior?
   *a. Practitioners can evaluate the effectiveness of their inventions in carefully controlled settings that parallel research.
   b. Practitioners test theories of human behavior when working with challenging clients.
   c. Practitioners use research to develop new interventions.
   d. Practitioners and researchers form teams to design new programs.

2. Why is there a need for human service providers to be knowledgeable about research?
   *a. Providers need to be able to critically evaluate research procedures to decide whether research findings should be introduced into practice.
   b. Providers must present annually at conferences.
   c. Researchers rely on providers to recruit research subjects.
   d. Providers and researchers network frequently with one another to find jobs.

3. Descriptive research:
   *a. Involves the attempt to discover facts or describe reality.
   b. Utilizes randomized observations to answer questions about human services.
   c. Is easy to disprove because it is not controlled.
   d. Is conducted by agencies in order to quantitatively assess their effectiveness.

4. Evaluation research:
   *a. Systematically evaluates or monitors programs and clinical practices using scientific methods.
   b. Scores human services agencies using a national standardized scale.
   c. Is conducted by researchers looking to criticize human services.
   d. Focuses on making projections about what may occur in the future or in other settings.

5. Four categories of social research are:
   *a. Descriptive, predictive, explanative, and evaluative
   b. Scientific, empirical, descriptive, and qualitative
   c. Descriptive, visual, assessment, and quantitative
   d. Predictive, evaluative, descriptive, and empirical

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6. Empirical data refer to:
   *a. Information or facts about the world that are based on sensory experiences.
   b. Research collected about human services agencies to inform policy.
   c. Research based on philosophy and speculation.
   d. The hierarchy of scientific methods employed in academia.

7. Evidence-based practice is:
   *a. A process for making decisions in which practitioners integrate the best research evidence available with their practice expertise and client background.
   b. The complex statistical analysis done on the observations of thousands of people in a highly controlled experimental study.
   c. The interventions used by researchers when they visit human service agencies.
   d. A large and complex body of knowledge about human social and psychological behavior.

8. Which of the following statements about diversity are true:
   a. Has a powerful influence on people and social life.
   b. Can lead to disproportional suffering due to poverty, inequality, or discrimination.
   c. Human service practice focuses on alleviating disproportionality in diverse groups.
   *d. All of the above.

9. The first step in conducting social research is:
   a. Evidence-based practice
   *b. Problem formulation
   c. Interviewing clients
   d. Developing a hypothesis

10. What do researchers learn during data analysis?
   *a. Whether their ideas are confirmed or refuted by empirical evidence.
   b. Whether they will be able to publish the results of their study.
   c. If practitioners have been administering the pretest to fidelity.
   d. All of the above.

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Name three of the five categories of applied research in human services settings and give a brief explanation of each.

   Expected Answer Content:

   Answers should cover: Behavior and Social Environment—studies of human behavior and environment; Policy Planning and Development—research that helps direct policy development; Assessment and Client Functioning—evaluating levels of client functioning; Program Evaluation—research on the effectiveness and or impacts of human services; and Practice Effectiveness Evaluation—research examining effectiveness of human services practitioners.

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2. List the steps of the research process and briefly describe each

   Expected Answer Content:

   Answers should cover: Program Formulation—the process of developing a research problem to examine; Research Design Development—the process of developing a research design and determining what will be observed and how; Data Collection—determining what data will be collected; Data Analysis—the evaluation of data; Drawing Conclusions—making conclusions based on data analysis; and Public Dissemination of Results—the process of sharing results with the public, especially relevant professionals.

3. What are some of the differences between conducting research and developing practice interventions?

   Expected Answer Content:

   Answers should stress that research processes attempt to answer research problems, which pertain to gaps in knowledge, whereas practice processes attempt to solve problems related to day-to-day life or human functioning. These differences can be highlighted in examining any steps in the research and practice processes.

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. Discuss why it is important for human services research results to be publicly disseminated.

   Expected Answer Content:

   Answers should focus on function of human services research—to impact practice—and the need for practitioners and others have access to research findings. Answers may also highlight the importance of sharing research results with other researchers who can use findings and research techniques to advance their own research, contributing to a richer knowledge base. Answers may also discuss of opening research to critical peer review to ensure that findings are based on adequate evidence and sound analyses.

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