

Test Bank for Research Methods 2 1 Core Concepts and Skills for Psychology 2nd Price

**Paul Price's Research Methods:
Core Concepts and Skills for Psychology v2.1**

Chapter 2: Research Basics

True/False Items

Section 1

1. Research has shown that the use of human figure drawings improves children's memories for being touched.
False; Easy
2. Marital status is an example of a categorical variable.
True; Easy
3. Whether or not someone is clinically depressed is an example of a quantitative variable.
False; Moderate
4. Most research in psychology is conducted using random samples.
False; Moderate
5. Most research in psychology is conducted using convenience samples.
True; Moderate
6. Differences between group means are typically presented using bar graphs.
True; Easy
7. Bar graphs are typically used to present relationships between quantitative variables.
True; Easy
8. The relationship between people's heights and weights is positive.
True; Easy
9. In a negative relationship, higher scores on one variable are associated with lower scores on another variable.
True; Moderate
10. Pearson's r cannot be negative.
False; Easy
11. Pearson's r is appropriate for describing nonlinear relationships.
False; Easy

12. In a study on the effect of visualization on golfing performance, the independent variable is visualization.
True; Moderate
13. In a research study, a variable that is conceptualized as the cause of another variable is the dependent variable.
False; Moderate
14. If two variables are positively related, changes in one cause changes in the other.
False; Moderate
15. Experiments do not have the directionality problem.
True; Moderate
16. Correlation does not imply causation.
True; Easy

Section 2

17. Good research questions should only come from previous research.
False; Easy
18. The only good research questions in psychology are those that lead to new ways to help people.
False; Easy
19. Milgram's (1963) obedience study was inspired by his experience in the army.
False; Easy
20. Two important considerations in evaluating research questions are their interestingness and feasibility.
True; Easy
21. A research question that has already been studied by scientific researchers is generally not worth pursuing further.
False; Moderate
22. "Feasibility" refers to how interesting a research question is.
False; Easy

Section 3

23. The research literature in psychology consists of all published research in the field.

True; Easy

24. A professional journal is a personal diary kept by a researcher.

False; Easy

25. An empirical research report presents the results of one or more new empirical studies.

True; Easy

26. Most professional journals in psychology are not peer reviewed.

False; Easy

27. The process of peer review prevents many important studies from being published.

False; Moderate

28. A review article typically presents no new data.

True; Moderate

29. An open access journal can be read by anyone for free on the Internet.

True; Easy

30. PsycINFO does not include articles published before 1973.

False; Easy

31. A typical research article would include references to three to five articles or book chapters.

False; Easy

Multiple-Choice Items

Section 1

32. Which of the following is a categorical variable?

- a. eye color
- b. IQ
- c. number of lifetime sexual partners
- d. shoe size

A; Easy

33. In a study of happiness, 100 people rate their level of happiness on a 1-to-10 scale. What kind of variable is this?

- a. categorical
- b. quantitative

- c. independent
- d. dependent

B; Easy

34. Which of the following is most likely to be the population in a psychological research study?

- a. 60 introductory psychology students
- b. all students at the University of Michigan
- c. all introductory psychology students
- d. adult humans

D; Moderate

35. Which of the following is the most common type of sample in psychological research?

- a. a convenience sample
- b. a random sample
- c. a haphazard sample
- d. a stratified sample

A; Moderate

36. Which of the following statements is true?

- a. There are many good operational definitions for stress.
- b. Any operational definition of stress must include a physiological component (e.g., blood pressure).
- c. There is no good way to define stress.
- d. Stress cannot be measured using questionnaires.

A; Easy

37. There is a statistical relationship between two variables if which of the following is true?

- a. One of the variables has a higher mean than the other.
- b. The average level of one variable differs across levels of the other.
- c. The variables are conceptually similar (e.g., intelligence and common sense).
- d. all of the above

B; Moderate

38. Which of the following is most clearly a statement about a statistical relationship between variables?

- a. About one-third of Americans have a psychological disorder at some time in their lives.
- b. Summer temperatures in Phoenix often exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
- c. "Pain-Away" is more effective at treating headaches than its main competitor.

- d. Many people are willing to visit a psychotherapist for help with their problems—but many are not.

C; Difficult

39. A research methods student conducts a study on the relationship between people's level of extroversion and the number of close friends they have. She computes Pearson's r , which comes out to be -1.70 . Which of the following is most clearly true?

- a. The relationship between the two variables is weak.
- b. More extroverted people have fewer friends.
- c. She ought to use a bar graph to display her results.
- d. She made an error in computing Pearson's r .

D; Moderate

40. When you want to show that Variable X has a direct effect on Variable Y, what is the best kind of study to conduct?

- a. a nonexperimental study
- b. an experiment
- c. an observational study
- d. a survey

B; Easy

41. Which of the following could NOT be the independent variable in an experiment?

- a. sexual abuse
- b. study strategy
- c. room temperature
- d. mood

A; Difficult

42. Which of the following studies most clearly has the directionality problem?

- a. a study on whether or not a person was sexually abused as a child and how paranoid he or she is as an adult
- b. a study on the relationship between losing a limb and one's self-esteem
- c. a study relating college students' study habits to their final exam performance
- d. a study on the correlation between how much negative emotion a person has and how many physical symptoms he or she has

D; Difficult

Section 2

43. Milgram's (1962) obedience study was inspired by which of the following?

- a. his experience as a soldier during World War II
- b. the trials of accused Nazi war criminals

- c. the brutal attack of Kitty Genovese
- d. his experience working in a psychological research lab

B; Easy

44. The most common source of research ideas in psychology is which of the following?
- a. previous research
 - b. informal observations
 - c. government regulations
 - d. suggestions from friends

A; Easy

45. What makes a research question interesting?
- a. it solves a practical problem
 - b. the answer is not obvious
 - c. the answer will fill a gap in the research literature
 - d. all of the above

D; Easy

Section 3

46. The research literature in psychology consists primarily of which of the following?
- a. articles in professional journals and edited books
 - b. Web sites and encyclopedia entries
 - c. magazine articles and newspaper articles
 - d. academic books and popular books

A; Easy

47. Which of the following is true of a review article?
- a. It presents the results of several new studies.
 - b. It summarizes all the research on a particular question.
 - c. It presents a critical review of a new book.
 - d. It presents a one-page summary of a research topic.

B; Easy

48. What typically happens to a manuscript during the peer review process for a professional journal?
- a. The researcher gets comments on the manuscript from his or her friends before submitting it for publication.
 - b. The manuscript is posted on the Internet and voted on by a large group of evaluators.
 - c. The journal editor sends the manuscript to three experts for their comments before deciding whether to publish it.
 - d. The manuscript is published and the journal editor then publishes comments from readers.

C; Moderate

49. Which of the following is true of open access journals in psychology?
- a. They are not considered to be part of the scholarly literature.
 - b. They include only review articles.
 - c. They are not peer reviewed.
 - d. They can be read by anyone for free on the Internet.

D; Moderate

50. What is the primary database for the research literature in psychology?
- a. JSTOR
 - b. Social Science Citation Index
 - c. PsycINFO
 - d. Psychological Abstracts

C; Easy

51. An empirical study of published research articles in psychology found that they include how many references on average?
- a. 3
 - b. 10
 - c. 20
 - d. 50

D; Easy

Short-Answer / Essay Items

Section 1

52. What is a random sample? Explain why researchers in psychology do not typically use random samples in their research.
A random sample is one where every member of the population had an equal chance of being selected. Researchers in psychology generally do not have access to the entire population.

Moderate

53. Give an example of each of the two types of statistical relationships discussed in the chapter.
Answers may vary. Sex differences are a particularly clear example of differences between group or condition means.

Easy

54. Give an example showing clearly that two variables can be statistically related without it being the case that one of them is the cause of the other.
Answers may vary. The birth control example and candy examples from the textbook are good ones.

Moderate

Section 2

55. What makes a research question in psychology “interesting?”

The extent to which 1) its answer is in doubt, 2) its answer would fill a gap in the research literature, and 3) it has practical implications.

Easy

Section 3

56. Explain how the peer review process generally works in scientific research.

Researchers submit a manuscript to a journal editor, who sends it to three peer reviewers. The editor decides based on the peer reviewers' feedback whether to accept the manuscript for publication, reject it, or give the researchers a chance to revise it based on the reviewers' comments.

Easy