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Chapter 2
Studying Sexuality: Research Methods and Challenges

True/False Questions

1. Sexologists seldom produce scholarly research and writing on sexuality.
   False; Easy

2. Sexperts are primarily academic researchers and writers who produce scholarly research and writing on sexuality.
   False; Easy

3. A common issue with practitioners who are not certified as sex therapists is that they are less likely to recommend a multimodal approach to treatment and that they only consider their own field.
   True; Easy

4. Sexperts are individuals who speak in the media, on television, and the web.
   True; Easy

5. Media figures often have far more impact on public knowledge about sexuality than all the researchers and those with professional training combined.
   True; Easy

6. The lack of formal training of many media experts negates their value: nonexperts can seldom be self-taught, and formal training and credentialing solely guarantee skill.
   False; Moderate

7. Basic research in many fields is publicly funded, and in sexuality such funding often comes as part of behavioral science or health research funding.
   True; Moderate

8. Sexuality research is less important in comparison to research in physics, medicine, or any other area of science.
   False; Easy

9. Focus on individual psychology is a perspective in sexology that places emphasis on similarities and differences across species, including the biological origins of sexuality and differences between the sexes.
   False; Easy

10. Natural selection refers to traits and adaptations in one sex that, through competition or a preference for these traits in the other sex, leads to a greater likelihood of reproduction.
    False; Easy

11. Sexual selection may be thought of as a special consequence of natural selection that arises in species that reproduce sexually.
    True; Easy

12. Evolution fails to provide a useful unifying framework in studying sexuality and understanding the origins and function of sexual behavior in any particular species.
    False; Moderate

13. One benefit of sexual reproduction is that it generates greater resistance to disease in offspring.

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True; Easy

14. The agricultural patriarchies traditionally required females to depend on males and punished females who had sex with multiple partners.
True; Easy

15. Anthropologists follow a similar methodology to most psychologists who research culture, using surveys and laboratory-based studies.
False; Easy

16. Research from the cultural perspective has shown that many aspects of human nature that one might think are universal or innate turn out to be a result of learning.
True; Moderate

17. The cultural perspective on sexuality typically excludes considering religious beliefs and practices.
False; Easy

18. The social learning perspective focuses on the specific biological mechanisms underlying sexuality or sex differences.
False; Easy

19. Psychology is the academic field most associated with the social learning perspective.
True; Easy

20. A social constructionism perspective suggests that all observable aspects of sexuality and sexual difference in humans result from the social environment and the meanings that individuals give to concepts.
True; Easy

21. Radical advocates of constructionism suggest that intellectual concepts and people's own experiences of gender and sexual orientation are seldom social constructions of a particular cultural environment.
False; Moderate

22. The social constructionism perspective on the origins of sexual jealousy suggests that blocking a rival male's ability to mate would increase the chances that the female might remain fertile and potentially mate with the blocking male.
False; Easy

23. In the example of premature ejaculation, an evolutionary perspective explains that there is a normal distribution of many characteristics and that people with rapid ejaculation are merely typical of humans.
False; Moderate

24. In the example of premature ejaculation, the social constructionism perspective might describe how pornography rarely illustrates sexual behavior other than intercourse and is edited to give unrealistic expectations of sexual functioning.
True; Moderate

25. Treatment from a therapist informed by social constructionism might shun medications or attempts to "fix" the premature ejaculation, instead seeing the problem as a symptom of a medical system that profits from calling normal variations disordered.
True; Moderate

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26. Experts trained in the biological perspective are likely to provide treatment for premature ejaculation in the form of helping a couple adjust expectations and learn other forms of sexual contact that allows both partners to be equally satisfied.
False; Moderate

27. Scientific method refers to the specific ways in which the independent and dependent variable are defined.
False; Easy

28. To be a true experiment, participants should be grouped homogenously.
False; Easy

29. For a sample of a true experiment to be generalizable, participants should be representative of the broader population.
True; Easy

30. Biological sex is usually treated as a dependent variable because it is manipulated.
False; Easy

31. Correlations are defined as the factors that may be causing a difference other than what is being measured.
False; Easy

32. Case studies are techniques in researching sexuality in which the experiences of a small number of individuals are described in detail.
True; Easy

33. Surveys are the easiest tools to obtain a true random sample that is representative of a large population.
False; Easy

34. Surveys suffer from selection bias of people who are willing to answer questions about sexuality more often than people who are unwilling to answer such survey requests.
True; Moderate

35. Door-to-door surveys tend to have a higher response rate than anonymous phone or internet surveys, but they are more subject to response bias.
True; Moderate

36. Empirical research that yields null results is less likely to be published in leading journals than studies that find a statistical effect.
True; Easy

37. The term *biopsychosocial* was coined by Sigmund Freud.
False; Easy

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Multiple Choice Questions

38. Three categories of people who claim expertise in sex are: _____, sex therapists, and "sexperts" who appear regularly on television and the Internet.
    a. prostitutes
    b. sex workers
    c. sex rights experts
    d. sexologists

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e. professional dominants

d; Easy

39. Three categories of people who claim expertise in sex are: sexologists, _____, and "sexperts" who appear regularly on television and the Internet.
    a. professional dominants
    b. sex workers
    c. sex rights activists
    d. prostitutes
    e. sex therapists

    e; Easy

40. Three categories of people who claim expertise in sex are: sexologists, sex therapists, and "_____" who appear regularly on television and the Internet.
    a. professional dominants
    b. sexperts
    c. sex workers
    d. sex rights experts
    e. prostitutes

    b; Easy

41. Which of the following statements is true of sexology?
    a. It is the formal study of sexual behavior and other aspects of human sexuality.
    b. At most universities today, numerous programs exist that offer a doctoral degree in sexology or sexuality.
    c. The doctoral degree in field is one of the defining characteristics of a professional field in academia and serves as the basis for a department in a university, and so sexology is exclusively characterized with a professional "home."
    d. It is the most primitive branch of knowledge.
    e. It is a branch of science that exclusively studies the evolution of the two sexes, male and female.

    a; Moderate

42. _____ are primarily academic researchers and writers who produce scholarly research and writing on sexuality.
    a. Surveyors
    b. Reporters
    c. Professional dominants
    d. Sexologists
    e. Sex workers

    d; Easy

43. People who study sexuality:
    a. often pursue graduate degree in another academic discipline.
    b. have no formal training at all.
    c. exclusively provide consultations for sexual problems.
    d. are typically awarded doctorates in sexology.
    e. will only prescribe medication for treating sexuality.

    a; Moderate

44. Which of the following is a common issue with practitioners who are not certified as sex therapists?
    a. They are most likely to only provide psychological counseling for treatment.
    b. They are most likely to only prescribe medicines for treatment.
    c. They are less likely to consider only their own field.

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d. They are less likely to recommend a multimodal approach to treatment.
e. They undergo formal training in sex therapy or sexuality education.

d; Moderate

45. Which of the following professionals speak about sexuality in the media, on television, and the web?
    a. Sex workers
    b. Sexperts
    c. Escorts
    d. Prostitutes
    e. Professional dominants

    b; Easy

46. Which of the following is most likely to be true about journalists who report about sexuality in media?
    a. They are certified sexologists.
    b. They fit research results into a broader context of sexuality research.
    c. They are careful and accurate in their reporting of sexuality.
    d. They tend to focus on the results of a single study about sexuality research.
    e. They can suggest treatments based on the results of the study.

    d; Moderate

47. Sexuality research is as worthy as research in physics, medicine, or any other area of science because it:
    a. helps us understand how the human body works and the reasons when the body does not work properly.
    b. affects wellness and happiness, including psychological and emotional satisfaction in life relationships.
    c. helps us understand how humans view themselves, their history, and the connections they have around the world.
    d. aids in the development of antibiotics and the understanding of increases and decreases in virulence of pathogens.
    e. helps us understand the distinction between changes in gametes and changes in body cells.

    b; Moderate

48. Which of the following statements is true of sexual orientation?
    a. It is usually hereditary.
    b. It is an adoptive trait.
    c. It is hardwired by DNA.
    d. It can be enforced.
    e. It can be sexually transmitted.

    c; Moderate

49. A biological perspective focuses on:
    a. the change from matriarchal to patriarchal societies exclusively.
    b. cultural factors that influence sexual orientation.
    c. diversity between human cultures that influence sexuality.
    d. the effects of the invention of agriculture and industrialization on the biological aspects of sexuality.
    e. specific biological mechanisms underlying sexuality or sex differences.

    e; Easy

50. Which of the following statements best describes the cultural perspective of sexuality?

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a. It is a perspective that focuses on the specific biological mechanisms underlying sexuality or sex differences.
b. It focuses on the similarities and differences across species, including the biological origins of sexuality and differences between the sexes.
c. It is a form of the social learning perspective more common in gender studies that suggests that essentially all important aspects of sexuality and sexual difference in humans result from the social environment and the meanings that we give to things.
d. It is a perspective that attends to the interaction of nature and social experience (nurture) in understanding individual difference; often used by psychologists, particularly in focusing on individual and family experience.
e. It is a perspective that particularly attends to the breadth of diversity that exists in human cultures, including the multiple manifestations of culture in societies, nations, ethnicities, and religions.

e; Easy

51. Which of the following best describes the social learning perspective in sexology?
    a. It focuses on the breadth of diversity that exists in human cultures that influence sexual orientation.
    b. It considers the ways in which the social environment works in combination with innate tendencies to shape behavior, focusing on the interaction of nature and nurture.
    c. It studies the aspects of sexuality and suggests that sexual difference in humans result from the social environment and the meanings that we give to concepts.
    d. It focuses on similarities and differences across species, including the biological origins of sexuality and differences between the sexes.
    e. It studies specific social mechanisms underlying sexuality or sex differences that lead to testable predictions.

    b; Easy

52. The social constructionism perspective suggests that:
    a. diversity across human cultures influence sexual orientation.
    b. observable aspects of sexuality and sexual difference in humans result from the social environment and the meanings that individuals give to concepts.
    c. the social environment works in combination with innate tendencies to shape behavior, focusing on the interaction of nature and nurture.
    d. similarities and differences across species, including the biological origins of species and differences between the sexes determine sexuality.
    e. specific social mechanisms underlying sexuality or sex differences lead to testable predictions.

    b; Easy

53. Which of the following suggests that individuals possessing traits that are better fitted to the environment are more likely to survive and reproduce, passing those traits on, whereas those who do not fit the environment well are more likely to die off?
    a. Sexual selection
    b. Parallel evolution
    c. Genetic drift
    d. Natural selection
    e. Adaptive radiation

    d; Easy

54. _____ refers to traits and adaptations in one sex that, through competition or a preference for these traits in the other sex, lead to a greater likelihood of reproduction.
    a. Natural selection
    b. Disruptive selection
    c. Sexual selection

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d. Sexual objectification
e. Sex segregation
c; Easy

55. Identify a common misunderstanding of evolution.
    a. It claims that humans and chimpanzees have the same ancestors.
    b. It suggests that species always evolve into "higher" or more perfect forms.
    c. It is based on the theory of natural selection.
    d. It suggests that evolution produced competition that was seldom ruthless.
    e. It explains why more offspring are produced than can possibly survive.
    b; Moderate

56. An advantage of sexual reproduction is that:
    a. it increases deleterious mutations in successive generations.
    b. it seldom explains why the sexes differ from each other.
    c. it provides traits that are beneficial for one sex and harmful for the other.
    d. it generates greater resistance to disease in offspring.
    e. it seldom requires organisms to expend energy in finding mates.
    d; Moderate

57. One of the advantages of sexual reproduction is that:
    a. it decreases the likelihood of deleterious mutations across successive generations.
    b. it seldom explains why the sexes differ from each other.
    c. it provides traits that are beneficial for one sex and harmful for the other.
    d. it seldom requires organisms to expend energy in mating.
    e. it seldom requires organisms to expend energy in finding mates.
    a; Moderate

58. Species that have more than two sexes or mating types, where all the types involve similarly sized and shaped reproductive cells are known as _____.
    a. isogamous
    b. anisogamous
    c. misogamous
    d. karyogamous
    e. oogamous
    a; Easy

59. _____ frequently produces species so well fitted for their current environment that the species then goes extinct when the environment changes rapidly.
    a. Extinction
    b. Mitosis
    c. Evolution
    d. Speciation
    e. Meiosis
    c; Easy

60. Identify the academic discipline that is most associated with the social learning perspective.
    a. Philosophy
    b. Ethics
    c. Physiology
    d. Psychology
    e. Neurology
    d; Easy

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61. Which of the following affects the type of research questions that may be considered in studying sexuality?
    a. Researchers certified as sex therapists are less likely to recommend a multimodal approach to treatment.
    b. Researchers certified as sex therapists who recommend a multimodal treatment for sexual issues are more likely to consider working with complementary professions.
    c. Researchers with academic degrees in different disciplines are more likely to have different theoretical perspective on sexuality.
    d. Research in sexuality is often funded as part of behavioral science funding or health research funding.
    e. Research papers published in psychology and sexuality focus on the negative aspects of sexuality.

    c; Moderate

62. A theoretical perspective is different from the academic discipline utilizing that perspective in that the theoretical perspective:
    a. is taught and researched at the college and recognized by the academic journals and departments.
    b. comes from different professionals who are engaged in working together in addressing a common challenge.
    c. refers to the broad explanatory framework that a researcher uses as well as the types of data that are gathered.
    d. refers to the study and scope within a single discipline of academic degree.
    e. consists of experiences of a small number of individuals described in detail.

    c; Moderate

63. According to biological and evolutionary perspectives, which of the following activity is a result of sexual jealousy?
    a. Overly active mate guarding
    b. Homosexuality
    c. Monogamous mating
    d. Consensual group mating
    e. Natural selection

    a; Easy

64. According to evolutionary psychologists, internal fertilization and mandatory parental investment of female mammals would be expected to lead the female mammals to seek:
    a. isolation and self-retreat.
    b. mate guarding and sexual jealousy.
    c. more selectivity in partners.
    d. excessive intrasexual competition.
    e. flexibility in gender roles.

    c; Easy

65. The social learning perspective on sexual jealousy suggests that:
    a. sexual jealousy is a cultural artifact with many manifestations.
    b. there is uniformity of sexual jealousy across all species.
    c. there is uniformity of sexual jealousy in all human beings across all cultures.
    d. there is an evolved mechanism for sexual jealousy and paternity certainty.
    e. male domination and power relationship determine sexual jealousy.

    d; Moderate

66. Which of the following perspectives on sexual jealousy most likely focuses on the nature of power relationships in postagrarian societies?
    a. Forced perspective

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b. Global perspective
c. Constructionism perspective
d. Utilitarian perspective
e. Biological perspective
c; Easy

67. The _____ notes that the average time from the commencement of intercourse to ejaculation in mammals is highly variable, tending to be shorter in mammals that are subject to predation or where females mate with multiple males.
    a. Biological perspective
    b. Social learning perspective
    c. Constructionism perspective
    d. Evolutionary perspective
    e. Cross-cultural perspective
    d; Easy

68. Identify the explanation of the biological perspective for premature ejaculation.
    a. The average time between intromission to ejaculation in mammals is highly variable.
    b. Anxieties are likely to contribute to sexual functioning.
    c. There is a normal distribution of many characteristics.
    d. Portrayal of sex in media creates unrealistic expectations.
    e. Premature ejaculation is a manifestation of patriarchal societies.
    c; Moderate

69. The _____ applied to clinical problems is more likely to integrate cognitive and behavioral psychotherapy theories and techniques to explain and treat premature ejaculation.
    a. biological perspective
    b. evolutionary perspective
    c. cultural perspective
    d. social learning perspective
    e. constructionism perspective
    d; Easy

70. In relation to the issue of premature ejaculation, the social constructionism perspective is most likely to study:
    a. how media creates unrealistic expectations of sexual performance.
    b. cognitive and behavioral psychotherapy techniques.
    c. factors that affect the time from intromission to ejaculation in mammals.
    d. the form of medications that inhibits orgasm or behavioral training.
    e. how relationship issues and anxiety contribute to sexual functioning.
    a; Moderate

71. According to the social constructionism perspective, which of the following would a therapist most likely suggest to a man seeking treatment for premature ejaculation problems?
    a. To take anti-depressants to fix such medical problems.
    b. To take medications and learn behavioral techniques to postpone ejaculation.
    c. To imitate the sexual performance portrayed in film and media.
    d. To focus on relationship issues and anxiety contributing to the sexual performance.
    e. To adjust expectations and learn other forms of sexual contact.
    e; Moderate

72. _____ involves building theories to explain observations of the natural world that are sufficiently specific so that they lead to testable predictions, or hypotheses.
    a. Unobtrusive research
    b. Simulation

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c. Enculturation
d. The scientific method
e. Environmental scanning

d; Easy

73. Which of the following principles is the most commonly used experimental research principle to test a null hypothesis?
    a. The principle of fairness
    b. The principle of falsifiability
    c. The principle of feasibility
    d. The principle of favorability
    e. The principle of futility

    b; Easy

74. Which of the following statements is true of research methods in sexology?
    a. The most common experimental research uses the principle of falsifiability, where one has a null hypothesis and one constructs an experiment to test this.
    b. In a true experiment, an independent variable is seldom manipulated.
    c. In a true experiment, a dependent variable is seldom measured.
    d. A sophisticated statistical technique known as structural equation modeling allows researchers to measure the correlations between two variables exclusively, and never infers cause and effect.
    e. Case studies provide minimal details about the experiences of individuals.

    a; Moderate

75. In a true experiment, an independent variable is _____.
    a. measured
    b. nulled
    c. constant
    d. manipulated
    e. relative

    d; Easy

76. A dependent variable is _____ in a true experiment.
    a. manipulated
    b. measured
    c. nulled
    d. constant
    e. relative

    b; Easy

77. Which of the following statements is true of experimental designs?
    a. To be a true experiment, random assignment of participants to groups is not necessary.
    b. For a sample to be generalizable to others, participants should not be representative of the broader population.
    c. To be a true experiment, participants cannot choose whether they receive one type of material or another.
    d. In a true experiment, an independent variable cannot be manipulated.
    e. In a true experiment, a dependent variable cannot be measured.

    c; Moderate

78. Which of the following is a condition for conducting a true experiment?
    a. Sequential assignment of participants to groups is important.
    b. Participants should choose what type of material to choose.

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c. Random assignment of participants to groups is necessary.
d. Participants should represent a homogenous group.
e. Assignments of participants to groups should be of less emphasis.
c; Moderate

79. In a true experiment, which of the following is a condition that is necessary for a sample to be generalizable?
    a. Participants should be able to choose their preferred materials.
    b. Participants should be representative of a homogenous group.
    c. Participants should be representative of the broader population.
    d. Participants should be representative of a single age-group exclusively.
    e. Participants should be manipulated for achieving desired test results.
    c; Moderate

80. _____ are factors that can cause a difference in an experiment other than what one is measuring.
    a. Compounds
    b. Joint effects
    c. Inferences
    d. Confounds
    e. Composites
    d; Easy

81. _____ is a measure of the strength of the relationship between two already existing factors that each have a range of values.
    a. Confound
    b. Constitutive relation
    c. Congruence relation
    d. Correlation
    e. Comparison
    d; Easy

82. Correlations vary from _____ to a perfect positive relationship or a perfect negative relationship.
    a. an imperfect positive relationship
    b. no relationship
    c. a relative relationship
    d. an absolute relationship
    e. a perfect negative relationship
    b; Easy

83. Which of the following allows researchers to measure the correlations between multiple variables and, in some cases, infer cause and effect?
    a. Differential equation modeling
    b. Object-role modeling
    c. Structural equation modeling
    d. Comparative ratio analysis
    e. Relational modeling
    c; Easy

84. Which of the following nonexperimental methods describe in detail the experiences of a small number of individual(s)?
    a. Interviews
    b. Surveys
    c. Focus groups

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d. Case studies
e. Questionnaires

d; Easy

85. According to institutional review boards, which of the following should researchers obtain from participants prior to conducting research with those participants?
    a. Details such as race, nationality, religion, and so on
    b. Informed consent
    c. Criminal history
    d. Disclosure agreement
    e. Details such as age, marital status, and so on

    b; Easy

86. Designs that test for correlations and associations frequently use the _____ method, which involves asking people questions.
    a. unobtrusive research
    b. literature review
    c. case study
    d. survey
    e. grounded theory

    d; Easy

87. Which of the following statements is true about the use of surveys in gathering data related to human sexuality?
    a. It seldom results in selection bias; people who respond are seldom different from those who do not respond.
    b. It is seldom easy to obtain a true random sample representative of a large population.
    c. It uses clearly agreed-upon measures for all constructs; therefore, all the data is measured in the same way.
    d. It is seldom expensive to obtain a true random sample that is representative of a large population.
    e. It ensures honest responses by participants to all questions about sex.

    b; Moderate

88. Which of the following is a challenge while conducting surveys on sexuality, which is likely to lead to nonrepresentative results?
    a. Respondents are likely to represent a true random sample of the larger population.
    b. Respondents purposefully respond to the demand characteristics in a particular way.
    c. Respondents are more inclined to respond to phone and Internet surveys than door-to-door surveys.
    d. There are often no clearly agreed-upon measures for some constructs, so the same thing might be measured in very different ways.
    e. The case studies of participants provide highest volume of details about participants' experiences, most of which is irrelevant for research.

    d; Moderate

89. One of the challenges of a survey that is likely to lead to nonrepresentative results for sexuality research is that:
    a. respondents are likely to represent a true random sample of the larger population.
    b. respondents are more inclined to respond to phone and Internet surveys than door-to-door surveys.
    c. respondents may not respond honestly to certain questions about sex.
    d. respondents purposefully respond to the demand characteristics in a particular way.
    e. respondents are more likely to recall survey questions about lifetime behavior, but typically keep such information confidential.

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c; Moderate

90. The _____ is a commonly used instrument to measure sexual response in males by looking at the blood flow to their genitalia.
    a. polygraph
    b. photoplethysmograph
    c. penile plethysmograph
    d. penile prosthesis
    e. sphygmomanometer
    c; Easy

91. An advantage of measuring sexual arousal in people through pupil dilation in response to erotic stimuli is that:
    a. it has precise results because it attaches a recording device to respondents' genitals.
    b. it is safe because the equipment used in this technique that is attached to the participant's genitalia is carefully sterilized.
    c. it is effective because respondents will be aroused to the maximum extent.
    d. it is appealing to participants uncomfortable with genital measures of arousal.
    e. it can measure the sexual response in males by measuring the blood flow to their genitalia.
    d; Moderate

92. A _____ is a collection of questions designed to assess an underlying construct—that is, a theoretical idea.
    a. case study
    b. plethysmograph
    c. measurement scale
    d. box plot
    e. complete sample
    c; Easy

93. How many mass extinction events are believed to have occurred in Earth's history?
    a. One
    b. Two
    c. Three
    d. Four
    e. Five
    e; Moderate

94. The academic field most closely associated with the social learning perspective is:
    a. Sociology
    b. Cultural studies
    c. Medicine
    d. Psychology
    e. Biology
    d; Moderate

Short Answer Questions

95. Explain the different academic disciplines that are involved in studying sexuality.
    The most common disciplines involved in studying sexuality include the following: psychology, sociology, biology, medicine, religion, law, political science, literature, and history. Some of those who study sexuality identify as sexologists, but most identify professionally as psychologists, biologists, anthropologists, sociologists, historians, and

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so on with an interest in some aspect of sexuality.
Experts with training in sex therapy or sexuality education are most likely to have training at the graduate level in mental health, counseling, or an education-related field, with an additional specialization in sexuality, often applying the knowledge generated by sexologists and sexuality researchers.
Moderate

96. Identify the types of career paths and backgrounds of those who may have expertise in sexuality, including journalists and media experts.
Three categories of people can be identified who claim expertise in sex: the first are sexologists, the second are sex therapists, and the third are "sexperts" who appear regularly on television and the Internet.
Sexologists are primarily academic researchers and writers who produce scholarly research and writing on sexuality. The second category of experts includes those with training in sex therapy or sexuality education. Most of these individuals have training at the graduate level in mental health, counseling, or an education-related field, with an additional specialization in sexuality, often applying the knowledge generated by sexologists and sexuality researchers. Training in sex therapy is usually subsequent to earning a master's or doctoral degree in a medical or mental health field, and there are relatively few programs that offer formal sex therapy certification. The same is true for sexuality educators. Primary clinical training for therapists can be as physicians, nurses, master's-level social workers or counselors, and doctoral-level psychologists.
The last category of experts are "sexperts," those who speak in the media, on television and the web, some who specialize in sexuality, others who have general psychology or medical backgrounds, and others who have no formal training at all. Media figures often have far more impact on public knowledge about sexuality than all the researchers and those with professional training combined.
Moderate

97. Reflect on the value of studying sexuality.
Sexuality affects most individuals, extending to general health and pregnancy. It also affects wellness and happiness, including psychological and emotional satisfaction in life relationships. Many people experience unhappiness related to sexuality or sexual relationships, and there are substantial public costs involved with teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted illnesses. Beyond disease prevention, aspects of sexuality remain highly controversial both in the United States and in other countries, relating to religious belief and practice and to the rights and responsibilities of individuals and societies in terms of making and restricting choices and behavior. A perspective that is informed by knowledge of culture and history is important for those who wish to base policy decisions and law on an educated understanding of the human condition. Arguably, sexuality research is as worthy as research into physics, medicine, or any other area of science.
Moderate

98. Describe the evolutionary and biological perspectives on sexuality.
An evolutionary perspective on sexuality focuses on similarities and differences across species, including the biological origins of sexuality and differences between the sexes. A biological perspective may include considerations of evolution but usually refers to a focus on the specific biological mechanisms underlying sexuality or sex differences.
Easy

99. Describe the cross-cultural perspective on sexuality.
Some sexuality researchers pay particular attention to the cultural perspective and the breadth of diversity that exists in human cultures, both between and within countries. Psychologists who subscribe to this theoretical perspective pay special attention to how culture can affect identity. Cross-cultural psychologists look for patterns of cognition and

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social processes that may differ between cultures, and some sociologists and most cultural anthropologists use the cultural perspective.
Easy

100. Define the social learning perspective on sexuality.
The social learning perspective considers the ways in which social environment works in combination with innate tendencies to shape behavior, focusing on the interaction of nature and nurture.
Easy

101. Describe social constructionism and gender studies perspective on sexuality.
A social constructionism perspective goes further and is an extreme form of the social learning perspective, suggesting that essentially all observable aspects of sexuality and sexual difference in humans result from the social environment and the meanings that we give to concepts.
Easy

102. Distinguish between natural selection and sexual selection.
Natural selection suggests that individuals in a population vary in traits and adaptations, and those individuals possessing traits that are better fitted to the environment are more likely to survive and reproduce, passing those traits on, whereas those who do not fit the environment well or do not adapt to a changing environment die off; over time, this leads to extinction in some and, in others, an accumulation of changes across generations that eventually leads to new forms of life.
Sexual selection may be thought of as a special consequence of natural selection that arises in species that reproduce sexually. It refers to traits and adaptations in one sex that, through competition or a preference for these traits in the other sex, leads to a greater likelihood of reproduction, with those traits thus becoming more prevalent or pronounced across the generations.
Moderate

103. Explore nonexperimental methods, including case studies and surveys.
Of the numerous nonexperimental methods, some of the oldest are case studies, in which the experiences of a small number of individuals or just one individual are described in detail.
Much useful data in human sexuality concerns sexual behavior and is typically gathered in surveys. Designs that test for correlations and associations frequently use surveys. The survey method involves asking people questions, which sounds simple but presents challenges for sexologists that may especially lead to nonrepresentative results for sexuality research.
Easy

104. Reflect on general research ethics.
At any institution that receives any federal funding, all researchers affiliated with the institution are required to submit any proposed human or animal research for review to an independent panel, typically called an institutional review board (IRB). All modern IRBs require that researchers obtain informed consent from participants, which is the agreement to participate in a study. This requires notice be given about the general purposes of the study. Revealing the full hypothesis in some psychology experiments might bias results, so some deceit is permitted provided that there is no risk of harm to participants, that the deceit is essential to the research, and that once the experiment has finished, complete disclosure is made about the deceit.
IRBs also require that steps be taken to protect the confidentiality (and, in most cases, anonymity) of data. The issue of using animals in research is a controversial one, with passionate feelings both for and against.

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Moderate

105. Briefly explain the *Red Queen hypothesis.*

The *Red Queen hypothesis* is used to explain one of the genetic benefits of sexual reproduction in species. The environment in which organisms exist is currently changing, and organisms are in constant competition with one another for resources. Variations in offspring result in a greater chance that at least some offspring will have traits that help them to survive and reproduce. Sexual reproduction substantially increases these variations.

Moderate

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