Test Bank for Using Statistics in Criminal Justice 1st Murray

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Test Bank – Using Statistics in Criminal Justice

Chapter 2 – Context and Role of Statistics in Criminal Justice Research

Multiple Choice

1. A theory is a:
    a. Operationalized concept
    b. Statement of prediction
    c. Way in which we view the world*
    d. Diagram of ourselves
    e. Test of our hunches
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2. An operationalized concept is called a:
    a. Variable*
    b. Theory
    c. Hypothesis
    d. Induction
    e. Neo-concept
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3. "Wallace's Wheel" is an example of:
    a. Statistical analysis
    b. Theoretical assumptions
    c. The criminal justice system
    d. The research process*
    e. How qualitative data can become quantitative
    Page 18

4. Information that at researcher hopes to use is called:
    a. A variable
    b. Data*
    c. Stuff
    d. Things
    e. Concepts
    Page 19

5. Information that is normally NOT numerically codified is called:
    a. Research data
    b. Quantitative data
    c. Qualitative data*
    d. Obtained data
    e. Information overload
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6. Information that is normally numerically codified is called:

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a. Research data
b. Quantitative data*
c. Qualitative data
d. Obtained data
e. Information overload
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7. A variable is a type of data that:
   a. Has one result
   b. Has more than one result*
   c. Is typically collected in interviews
   d. Never varies
   e. Cannot be collected
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8. A variable for which its different result can affect another variable is called a/an:
   a. Objective variable
   b. Subjective variable
   c. Dependent variable
   d. Independent variable*
   e. Invariable variable
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9. For the research hypothesis: *Race affects number of speeding tickets.* "Race" is the:
   a. Dependent variable
   b. Independent variable*
   c. Subjective concept
   d. Unit of analysis
   e. Primary theory
   Page 19

10. For a research project looking at the affect of prior convictions on sentence length, sentence length is the:
    a. Qualitative data
    b. Theoretical assumption
    c. Concept
    d. Dependent variable*
    e. Independent variable
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11. The specific element that one is analyzing In a research study is called the:
    a. Variables
    b. Concepts
    c. Unit of analysis*
    d. Hypothesis
    e. Analysis

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12. An example of an observation would be:
    a. A question on a survey*
    b. An employee
    c. All the information gathered in an interview
    d. An answer to a question on a survey
    e. "Female"
    Page 19-20

13. The specific procedure that is performed on variables is called:
    a. Data
    b. Research
    c. Analysis*
    d. Analytics
    e. Information
    Page 19

14. Pieces or portions of a theory are called:
    a. Data
    b. Hypotheses
    c. Operationalization
    d. Variables
    e. Concepts*
    Page 20

15. Making concepts into something that is measurable (variables) involves what process?
    a. Operationalization*
    b. Data cleaning
    c. Research
    d. Theorizing
    e. Hypothesizing
    Page 20

16. Inductive reasoning begins with:
    a. A theory
    b. Data*
    c. Operationalization
    d. Analysis
    e. Hypotheses
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17. Deductive reasoning begins with:
    a. Data

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b. Hypotheses
c. A theory*
d. Operationalization
e. Analysis
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18. Another name for the process of inductive reasoning is:
a. Hypothesizing
b. Operationalization
c. The scientific method
d. Deductive reasoning
e. Grounded theory*
Page 20

19. "Impulsivity" is an example of what, from a General Theory of Crime?
a. A theory
b. A concept*
c. A variable
d. A hypothesis
e. An element
Page 21

20. Using the variable of shoplifting to measure the concept of impulsivity requires:
a. Analysis
b. Data mining
c. Operationalization*
d. Conceptualization
e. Counting
Page 21

21. A hypothesis strings together _____ and _____ into a prediction.
a. Independent variables; Dependent variables*
b. Concepts; Theories
c. Elements; Variables
d. Data; Information
e. Quantitative data; Qualitative data
Page 20-21

22. One of the most often overlooked concepts in criminological theory is:
a. Gender
b. Age
c. Race
d. Sex
e. Crime*
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23. The mnemonic term “Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally” speaks to:
    a. Operationalization
    b. Order of operations*
    c. Creating hypotheses
    d. Gathering data
    e. None of the above
    Page 23

24. One of the problems in using a “literal translation” in statistics is:
    a. You can’t translate numbers
    b. There is no appropriate language for it
    c. Many people are not “literate” in statistics*
    d. English is a hard language to translate
    e. Numbers mean different things to different people
    Page 23

25. A process by which articles are read and critiqued by other researchers before publication is:
    a. Quality assurance
    b. Data review
    c. Overview analysis
    d. Peer review*
    e. Open sourcing
    Page 24

26. When reviewers do not know the person whose work they are reviewing, the process is called:
    a. Blind review*
    b. Secret review
    c. Discrete review
    d. Silent overview
    e. None of the above
    Page 24

27. Which of the following outlets for research would likely use the *most innovative and complex* analysis?
    a. Journal articles*
    b. Public presentations
    c. Evaluation overviews
    d. Grant applications
    e. An executive summary
    Page 24

28. It is especially critical to use “layperson’s” language and give clear and straightforward results for:
    a. Journal articles

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b. Public presentations*
c. Grant applications
d. Conference presentations
e. None of the above
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29. One reason public presentations should not use complicated analysis is that:
a. Most public officials are not very bright
b. This data is often used to affect public policy
c. You cannot assume public groups are statistically literate
d. You don't want public groups to know about cutting-edge methods
e. Both B and C above*
Page 24-25

30. Grant applications will typically have the most in-depth descriptions of:
a. Theory
b. Data and methods*
c. Results
d. Conclusions
e. Policy implications
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31. Grant applications do not discuss research results because:
a. Government officials don't care about results
b. Results are always subjective
c. Results are included in an appendix
d. It is only a proposal for research yet to be done*
e. There is no review system for grant applications
Page 25

32. According to the author of the text, which of the following is among the trickiest for choosing a statistical analysis?
a. Journal articles
b. Public presentations
c. Grant applications*
d. Conference submissions
e. All of these are equally tricky
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33. When organizing data in a spreadsheet, the rows are typically the:
a. Independent variables
b. Dependent variables
c. Quantitative data
d. Units of analysis*
e. Elements
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34. Data that has not been manipulated or tested are often called:
    a. Research data
    b. Raw data*
    c. Clean data
    d. Obtained data
    e. Hypothesized data
    Page 26

35. Perhaps the largest benefit of using spreadsheet programs for data is:
    a. It is the most user-friendly
    b. It can handle the most sophisticated analysis
    c. Most people have easy access to one*
    d. It can help with interpretation
    e. All of the above
    Page 26

36. One spreadsheet function that needs to be used carefully so as not to mess up data is the _____ function.
    a. Search
    b. Analysis
    c. Sort*
    d. Add
    e. Calculate
    Page 27

37. One thing that makes both SPSS and STATA "user friendly" is:
    a. Their easy-to-read code
    b. Their multiple screens
    c. Their copyright function
    d. Their dropdown menus*
    e. Their common languages
    Page 28

38. The most widely used statistical packages for social sciences such as legal research and criminal justice are:
    a. SPSS and STATA*
    b. R and S-Plus
    c. Matlab and R
    d. SAS and Matlab
    e. SPSS and Excel
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39. One reason that many researchers use statistical packages instead of spreadsheets is:
    a. They have a nicer "sort" function
    b. They are easily obtainable

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c. They can do more sophisticated analysis easier*
d. They work on any platform
e. They are the only thing one can do statistics on
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40. Perhaps the biggest drawback to using SPSS or STATA is:
    a. Their inability to transfer to presentations
    b. Their terrible graphics
    c. Their inability to export results
    d. Their lack of power
    e. Their cost*
    Page 29

Short Answer/ Calculations.

1. Describe the role of theory, concepts, variables and hypothesis in research.
   Answer: Theories give us a lens with which to view the world. From theories we get concepts, which, when linked together, form hypotheses. When operationalized, these concepts become measurable variables. Variables are the building blocks of statistical analysis. And depending on the results that we obtain from our analysis of variables, we may go back and alter the original theory.
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2. Describe the different between inductive and deductive reasoning.
   Answer: The scientific method, a mechanism by which theory and research methods work together to advance a specific discipline, is accomplished in one of two ways: 1. Deductive reasoning, where a researcher begins with a theory, deduces concepts, operationalizes them to obtain data, tests a set of variables, then uses the results to assess and potentially alter the theory. 2. Inductive reasoning, where a researcher begins with data and analyzes it for variables that might be linked, builds concepts, and creates a theoretical construct.
   Page 20

3. A researcher is interested in whether the sex of an officer has any bearing on the number of hours s/he spends at the firing range off-duty. She collects self-report information by officer on number of hours they spend weekly at the shooting range. Name the *unit of analysis*, *independent* and *dependent* variables for this research.
   Answer:
   Unit of analysis – Officers
   Independent Variable – Sex
   Dependent Variable – Hours at shooting range

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4. A researcher is using Routine Activity Theory[1] to test whether burglary is more common in areas where there are few neighbors and near high schools. Routine Activity theory suggests that crime is more likely where there are motivated offenders and a lack of suitable guardianship. Explain how the researcher operationalized the concepts in this theory.

   Answer:
   Concept 1: Crime – Operationalized as the Variable Burglary
   Concept 2: Motivated offenders – Operationalized as proximity to schools with teens
   Concept 3: Lack of suitable guardianship – Operationalized as few neighbors.
   Page 21

5. Practice using PEMDAS for the following calculations, using k = 2 and x = (4, 2, 8. 10)
   1. $\Sigma x*k$
      Answer: 8 +4+16+20 = 48
   2. $\Sigma (x^2+k)$
      Answer: 18+6+66+102 = 192

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6. What are the important things to keep in mind when doing research for journal articles, public presentations and grant applications?

   Answer: Journal articles – innovative methods, peer reviewed (audience who understands statistics, so must be well- thought out and justified).
   Public presentations – often people who are not skilled in statistics – methods should be clear and straightforward
   Grant applications – middle ground between basic analysis and very innovative analysis. Is a proposal, not a study, so most time on data and methods.
   Page 24-25

7. What are the pros and cons of using spreadsheets for statistics?

   Answer:
   Pros: Most people have access, Easy to organize data
   Cons: Difficult to do advanced analysis, Need to be careful of sort function
   Page 26-27

8. What are the pros and cons of using software packages like SPSS and STATA?

   Answer:
   Pros: Easy interface for users, can do statistical analysis, can transfer data
   Cons: Cost money, not as easy for data manipulation.
   Page 28-29

[1] Cohen, L.E. and M. Felson. (1979). "Social Change and Crime Rate Trends." *American Sociological Review* 44:588-608

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