

Multiple Choice Section

1. “Social status,” “role,” “power,” “bureaucracy,” and “cohort” are all examples of:
- norms.
 - values.
 - concepts.
 - beliefs.

Topic: Concepts, p. 24, Answer: c

2. According to the text, concepts:
- are abstract representations of phenomena.
 - are particular to social (versus natural) science.
 - can only be defined by other concepts.
 - are not essential to research design.

Topic: Concepts, p. 24, Answer: a

3. Which statement is NOT a function of concepts in social science research?
- concepts are the foundation of communication
 - concepts introduce a way of looking at empirical phenomena
 - concepts serve as components of theory
 - all of the these answers are correct

Topic: Concepts, p. 25, Answer: d

4. Which statement does NOT reflect a function of concepts?
- to separate the social sciences from the other sciences
 - to serve as the components of theory
 - to serve as a means for classification and generalization
 - to introduce a point of view

Topic: Concepts, p. 25, Answer: a

5. The error in science of regarding abstractions as actual (real) phenomena is termed the:
- error of ostensive definition.
 - fallacy of reification.
 - misconceptualization of generalities.
 - error of progressive ordering.

Topic: Definitions, p. 27, Answer: b

6. Speaking or writing about the concept of “liberty” as if liberty somehow exists in the world as a thing itself is an example of the fallacy of:
- objectification.

- b. dramatization.
- c. reification.
- d. generalization.

Topic: Operational Definitions, p. 27, Answer: c

7. In which set of terms do all of the members NOT display a generic resemblance to the concept that is listed first?
- a. tree: oak, spruce, palm
 - b. occupation: plumber, teacher, nurse
 - c. power: electricity, individualism, legitimacy
 - d. conflict: argument, war, riot

Topic: Concepts, p. 24, Answer: c

8. Compared with scientific definitions, everyday language:
- a. is too vague, ambiguous, and imprecise.
 - b. is completely arbitrary.
 - c. makes communication with nonscientists impossible.
 - d. offends all scientists.

Topic: Definitions, p. 26, Answer: a

9. Concepts that cannot be defined by other concepts are called:
- a. unique definitions.
 - b. relative concepts.
 - c. derived terms.
 - d. primitive terms.

Topic: Definitions, p. 26, Answer: d

10. Colors, sounds, smells, and tastes are all examples of _____ terms.
- a. relative
 - b. derived
 - c. primitive
 - d. unique

Topic: Definitions, p. 26, Answer: c

11. Concepts that are defined using primitive terms are said to be defined using:
- a. ostensive definitions.
 - b. derived terms.
 - c. relative terms.

d. operational terms.

Topic: Definitions, p. 26, Answer: b

12. If we agree on the meaning of the terms “individual,” “interact,” and “regularly,” then the concept “group” can be defined as two or more individuals who interact regularly. In this instance, “group” is a _____ term.
- a. primitive
 - b. derived
 - c. relative
 - d. unique

Topic: Definitions, p. 26, Answer: b

13. According to the text, conceptual definitions:
- a. consist of primitive and derived terms.
 - b. are defined using everyday language.
 - c. must be true.
 - d. identify a set of procedures.

Topic: Definitions, p. 26, Answer: a

14. Which term is NOT an example of a primitive term for the concept of a group?
- a. individuals
 - b. interact
 - c. collective
 - d. regularly

Topic: Definitions, p. 26, Answer: c

15. To which of the following does this definition apply? "A set of procedures that describes the activities one should perform in order to establish empirically the existence or degree of existence of a phenomenon described by a concept."
- a. conceptual definition
 - b. ostensive definition
 - c. operational definition
 - d. scientific definition

Topic: Definitions, p. 27, Answer: c

16. If we define male attractiveness as the rating of any given male on a subjective scale of one to ten on a popular website, then this definition is a(n) _____ definition.
- a. conceptual
 - b. operational
 - c. ostensive

d. scientific

Topic: Definitions, p. 27, Answer: b

17. If we define intelligence as reflected by scores on an intelligence test, then this definition is a(n) _____ definition.
- a. conceptual
 - b. ostensive
 - c. operational
 - d. scientific

Topic: Definitions, p. 27, Answer: c

18. According to Melvin Seeman, which of the following is NOT part of his conceptual definition of alienation?
- a. self-identity
 - b. powerlessness
 - c. meaninglessness
 - d. normlessness

Topic: The Definition of Alienation, pp. 27-28, Answer: a

19. According to the text's discussion of congruence,:
- a. congruence between conceptual definition and operational definitions cannot be evaluated.
 - b. conceptual and operational definitions need not overlap.
 - c. congruence refers to the degree of agreement between conceptual and operational definitions.
 - d. congruence is only significant within specific theoretical contexts.

Topic: Bridging the Conceptual and Operational Divide, p. 29, Answer: c

20. According to the orthodox operational approach:
- a. a concept that cannot be operationally defined (at least in principle) should not be used in scientific research.
 - b. non-operationally defined concepts lead to meaningless research.
 - c. the scientific meaning of a concept can be established only by specifying a set of operations.
 - d. all of these answers are correct

Topic: Definitions, p. 29, Answer: d

21. According to the text, if a concept cannot be operationally defined, then it:
- a. is useless to the scientist.

- b. may gain meaning by considering its theoretical import.
- c. will lead to meaningless research.
- d. has no place in science.

Topic: Definitions, pp. 29, Answer: b

22. According to the text, some concepts gain meaning only in the context of the theory in which they are introduced, or it's:
- a. theoretical import.
 - b. theoretical relevance.
 - c. theoretical parity.
 - d. ostensive reality.

Topic: Definitions, p. 29 Answer: a

23. From Montgomery's model of racial dynamics in Puerto Rico, which is NOT a factor leading to the "whitening" of Puerto Rico?
- a. differential fertility
 - b. migration
 - c. racial classification of children
 - d. racial switching

Topic: Models, pp. 37-38, Answer: b

24. According to the text, *theory*:
- a. is vital in the research process.
 - b. informs problems and hypotheses.
 - c. provides contexts for interpreting concepts.
 - d. all of these answers are correct

Topic: Theory: Functions and Types, pp. 29-31, Answer: d

25. According to the text's discussion of theory, social scientists agree:
- a. that an important function of empirical research is to contribute to the development and refinement of theory.
 - b. on what theory is.
 - c. on what theory is not.
 - d. that an important task of empirical research is to proceed atheoretically, on the basis of observation only.

Topic: Theory: Functions and Types, p. 29, Answer: a

26. According to the text's discussion of misconceptions about theory:
- laypeople usually contrast "theory" and "practice."
 - theory and philosophy, are, in fact, one in the same.
 - theory has never been equated to philosophy in the social sciences.
 - philosophical theories and scientific theories can be compared on moral grounds.

Topic: Theory: Functions and Types, p. 30, Answer: a

27. What is the centerpiece of Thomas Smith's model of the policy implementation process?
- institutional feedback
 - the implementing organization (e.g., government)
 - a target group
 - an idealized policy

Topic: Models, pp. 35-36, Answer: d

28. What are the four levels of theory as distinguished by Parsons and Shils?
- ad-hoc classificatory systems, taxonomies, operational frameworks, and empirical systems
 - taxonomies, conceptual frameworks, theoretical systems, and ostensive definitions
 - conceptual frameworks, operational definitions, empirical systems, and taxonomies
 - ad-hoc classificatory systems, taxonomies, conceptual frameworks, and theoretical systems

Topic: Theory: Functions and Types, pp. 30-33, Answer: d

29. The lowest level of theorizing is:
- the ad-hoc classificatory system.
 - taxonomy.
 - the conceptual framework.
 - the theoretical system.

Topic: Theory: Functions and Types, p. 30, Answer: a

30. The categories "strongly agree," "agree," "strongly disagree," and "disagree" constitute a(n):
- theoretical system.
 - taxonomy.
 - ad-hoc classificatory system.
 - conceptual framework.

Topic: Theory: Functions and Types, p. 30, Answer: c

31. A taxonomy is a(n):
- operational definition.

- b. conceptual framework.
- c. categorical system.
- d. a tax designation used by the Internal Revenue Service.

Topic: Theory: Functions and Types, pp. 30-31, Answer: c

32. In a(n) _____, descriptive categories are systematically placed in a broad structure of explicit propositions which are to be accepted or rejected.

- a. taxonomy
- b. conceptual framework
- c. theoretical system
- d. ad-hoc classificatory system

Topic: Theory: Functions and Types, pp. 31-32, Answer: b

33. A combination of taxonomies and conceptual frameworks in which descriptions, explanations, and predictions are related in a systematic manner is a(n):

- a. theoretical system.
- b. ad-hoc classificatory system.
- c. conceptual framework.
- d. axiomatic theory.

Topic: Theory: Functions and Types, p. 32, Answer: a

34. Durkheim's theory of suicide provides a classic example of a(n):

- a. ad-hoc classificatory system.
- b. conceptual framework.
- c. theoretical system.
- d. taxonomy.

Topic: Theory: Functions and Types, p. 32, Answer: c

35. Formaltheory is also called:

- a. an ad-hoc classificatory system.
- b. a conceptual framework.
- c. taxonomic theory.
- d. axiomatic theory.

Topic: Theory: Functions and Types, p. 33, Answer: d

36. The text points out that a crucial problem in axiomatic theory involves the criteria used in selecting axioms. Which of these criteria is NOT one of the specified criteria?

- a. consistency
- b. complexity
- c. causality

d. simplicity

Topic: Theory: Functions and Types, p. 34, Answer: b

37. Which of the following is NOT a specified advantage of axiomatic theory?
- Concepts must be clearly defined.
 - It provides a parsimonious summary of actual and anticipated research.
 - It allows the researcher to examine all the consequences of specified axioms.
 - It is purely an empirical undertaking.

Topic: Theory: Functions and Types, pp. 33-34, Answer: d

38. A model is defined as a(n):
- ad-hoc classificatory system.
 - actual phenomenon observed in the world.
 - a compact summary or likeness of something.
 - none of these answer are correct.

Topic: Theory: Functions and Types, p. 35, Answer: c

39. Which statement does NOT reflect a stage involved in the theory-before-research strategy?
- construction of an explicit theory or a model
 - selection of a proposition derived from the theory or model for empirical investigation
 - determination of all other theoretical systems that generate the same proposition
 - designing a research project to test the proposition

Topic: Theory, Models, and Empirical Research, p. 39, Answer: c

40. Which of the following is NOT a stage involved in the research-before-theory strategy?
- construction of an explicit theory or model
 - investigating a phenomenon and delineating its attributes
 - measuring the attributes in a variety of situations
 - analysis of resulting data to determine if there are systematic patterns of variation

Topic: Theory, Models, and Empirical Research, p. 39, Answer: a

True/False Section

T F 1. Concepts are abstractions of phenomena.

Topic: Concepts, p. 24, Answer: True

T F 2. Conceptual definitions set forth the procedures for empirical observation of a given phenomenon.

Topic: Definitions, p. 26, Answer: False

T F 3. Operational definitions provide the link between abstract concepts and empirical observations.

Topic: Definitions, p. 27, Answer: True

T F 4. If a concept cannot be operationally defined, it should not be used in scientific research.

Topic: Definitions, p. 29, Answer: False

T F 5. Congruence refers to the degree of “fit” between conceptual and operational definitions.

Topic: Definitions, p. 29, Answer: True

T F 6. Most theories consist of moral philosophies and value judgments.

Topic: Theory: Functions and Types, p. 30, Answer: False

T F 7. A taxonomy is merely an ad-hoc classificatory system.

Topic: Theory: Functions and Types, pp. 30-31, Answer: False

T F 8. Plato's philosophy of the ideal polity is an example of axiomatic theory.

Topic: Theory: Functions and Types, pp. 32-33, Answer: False

T F 9. In the formulation of axiomatic theory, one selects the largest set of axioms from which all other axioms and theorems can be derived.

Topic: Theory: Functions and Types, pp. 32-33, Answer: False

T F 10. A model is an abstraction that simplifies reality while representing the essential characteristics of reality.

Topic: Theory: Functions and Types, Level: E, p. 35, Answer: True

Essay Section

1. Compare and contrast conceptual and operational definitions, and provide an example of each. Also differentiate between primitive and derived terms.
2. An operational definition is a set of procedures that describes the activities one should perform in order to empirically establish the existence of a concept. Select a social science concept and operationally define it using the criteria from the text.
3. Define congruence and theoretical import. Provide examples of each to support your answer.
4. What is theory? Explain some common misconceptions regarding theory.
5. Discuss the use of models in social science research, and provide an example.