Examination Questions for *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research, 3rd edition–*<u>*with answers*</u>

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Contents

1 Chapter 1

1. Which of the following best describes the relationship between a paradigm and normal science?

   (a) The regular conduct of normal science makes a paradigm possible.

   (b) The word paradigm means "normal science" in French.

   (c) The presence of a paradigm makes normal science possible. <u>correct answer</u>

   (d) There is no relationship between paradigms and normal science.

2. Which of the following is not an accurate statement about hypotheses according to Chapter 1 of Kellstedt & Whitten?

   (a) For each causal theory there can be only one hypothesis. <u>correct answer</u>

   (b) A hypothesis must contain an independent variable and a dependent variable.

   (c) A hypothesis must contain the expected relationship between the involved variables.

   (d) Statements a, b, and c are all accurate.

3. If a researcher finds results in the direction expected by his or her hypothesis, which of the following describes what has happened?

   (a) Their theory has been proven to be true.

   (b) Their theory would stand up in a court of law.

   (c) Their theory has been supported. <u>correct answer</u>

   (d) None of the above.

4. Which of the following statements accurately describes theories?

   (a) Theories are attempts to explain what causes what.

   (b) Theories are attempts to explain variation in a dependent variable.

   (c) Both a and b are accurate. <u>correct answer</u>

   (d) Neither a nor b is accurate

5. What does it mean when we say that a variable has been "operationalized?"

   (a) That the variable has been turned into an independent variable in a theory.

   (b) That the variable has been measured. <u>correct answer</u>

   (c) That the variable has been named.

   (d) None of the above.

6. Which of the following accurately describes the relationship between a theory and a hypothesis according to Chapter 1 of Kellstedt & Whitten?

    (a) A single theory can lead to multiple hypotheses. <u>correct answer</u>

    (b) If the direction of the relationship in a theory is positive then the direction of the relationship in the resulting hypothesis will also be positive.

    (c) Both a and b are accurate.

    (d) Neither a nor b is accurate.

For each of the following three questions, identify which one of the "Rules of the Road to Scientific Knowledge" has been violated:

7. A researcher writing about the effects of campaign spending on election outcomes writes the following phrase: "Like many other people, I have been outraged at the amount of money spent on recent political campaigns."

    (a) Avoid normative statements. <u>correct answer</u>

    (b) Don't let data alone drive your theories.

    (c) Consider only empirical evidence.

    (d) None of the above.

8. A researcher notices that when more firemen are sent to the scene of a fire, there tends to be more damage from that fire. She therefore theorizes that there is a positive causal relationship between the independent variable *number of firemen sent to a fire* and her dependent variable *amount of fire damage.*

    (a) Avoid normative statements.

    (b) Make your theories causal.

    (c) Consider only empirical evidence.

    (d) None of the above. <u>correct answer</u>

9. A researcher writing about the effects of military spending on public support for incumbent politicians writes "Since it is obvious that military spending hurts the economy and we have evidence that poor economic performance leads to lower incumbent support among voters, I conclude that military spending must hurt incumbent support."

    (a) Avoid normative statements.

    (b) Make your theories causal.

    (c) Consider only empirical evidence. <u>correct answer</u>

    (d) None of the above.

10. Which of the following causal statements is most parsimonious and general?

    (a) When inflation is higher, US House of Representative members from wealthy districts tend to fare poorly in elections.

    (b) In countries with high union density, unemployment is negatively related to incumbent party vote percentage.

    (c) When the economy is faring poorly, incumbent politicians tend to do poorly in elections. correct answer

    (d) In the 1992 US Presidential election, the ailing economy cost George H.W. Bush the election.

11. Which of the following best summarizes the main goal of Political Science according to Chapter 1 of Kellstedt and Whitten?

    (a) The development of scientific knowledge about politics. correct answer

    (b) The careful crafting of partisan messages.

    (c) Encouraging a fully informed public.

    (d) Empirical testing of hypotheses.

12. Which of the following statements best describes the role of theories in science according to Chapter 1 of Kellstedt and Whitten?

    (a) A theory is tentative statement about the cause of some phenomenon of interest. correct answer

    (b) Only highly trained PhD researchers can develop theories.

    (c) A theory is inferior to scientific fact.

    (d) Scientific theories only arise from laboratory experiments.

13. Which of the following accurately describes a variable according to Chapter 1 of Kellstedt and Whitten?

    (a) Something that is uncertain.

    (b) An undefinable quantity that takes on a range of values.

    (c) A definable quantity that takes on two or more values. correct answer

    (d) Something that changes over time.

14. Which of the following is an example of a negative relationship?

    (a) As the price of steel goes up, the price of cars goes up.

    (b) Inflation is bad for the middle class.

    (c) As military spending goes up, welfare spending goes down. correct answer

(d) People with higher levels of education have a higher probability of voting.

15. Which of the following accurately describes hypothesis testing according to Chapter 1 of Kellstedt and Whitten?

    (a) The act of evaluating empirical evidence to find cases that support one's theory.

    (b) The act of logically deducing how two variables relate to one another.

    (c) The act of interviewing experts on your topic of interest.

    (d) None of the above <u>correct answer</u>

2 Chapter 2

1. Which of the following are time series measures?

    (a) US Presidential approval in each of the 50 US states in January 2003.

    (b) US Presidential approval in each month from 1950-1999. <u>correct answer</u>

    (c) US Presidential approval in Alaska in 1999.

    (d) All of the above.

2. Which of the following are cross-sectional measures?

    (a) Individuals' evaluations of Presidential performance from a survey taken October 22, 2007.

    (b) Number of active military service members drawn from each German state in 1955.

    (c) Average annual military spending in each nation of the world during the 1950s.

    (d) All of the above. <u>correct answer</u>

3. Which of the following are good strategies for building a theory according to Chapter 2 of Kellstedt & Whitten?

    (a) Identifying interesting variation in an independent variable.

    (b) Move from general tendencies to specific events.

    (c) Both (a) and (b) are correct.

    (d) Neither (a) nor (b). <u>correct answer</u>

4. When we read research conducted by others, which of the following questions are helpful to ask in order to develop original theories?

    (a) Can their theory be applied elsewhere?