

## Chapter 2

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1. Social scientists use which of the following terms to note that the presence of one condition makes the occurrence of some other condition more likely than it would otherwise have been?

- a. correlation
- \*b. cause and effect
- c. operational definition
- d. validity

2. In his study of suicide, Emile Durkheim's dependent variable was:

- \*a. the suicide rate
- b. unmarried people
- c. religion
- d. Protestants

3. Which of the following would be an example of an operational definition?

- \*a. a person is a Democrat if they say they are a Democrat when asked if they are a Democrat, Republican, or independent.
- b. a Democrat is more liberal than a Republican
- c. somebody would have to be a fool to vote for the Democrats.
- d. a Democrat cares about ordinary people while a Republican only cares about rich people.

4. A measure that gives inconsistent results is called

- a. unobtrusive.
- b. operational.
- c. invalid.
- \*d. unreliable.

5. A randomly-selected subset of a population that is used in research to draw conclusions about the entire population would be a

- a. control group.
- b. experimental group.
- \*c. sample.
- d. correlation.

6. If we were to study the relationship between political party preference and race, "political party preference" would be the:

- a. intervening variable.
- b. dependent variable.

- \*c. independent variable.
- d. antecedent variable.

7. For a class assignment, a sociology student wishes to discover if physical activity and exercise is related to how well students perform academically. The best choice of methodology would be:

- a. a laboratory experiment
- b. a literature review.
- c. a field experiment.
- \*d. a survey.

8. A researcher develops a scale to be used in a survey. It should be possible for someone to look at the content of the scale and see some logical or apparent relationship between the scale and the concept it is designed to measure. This illustrates the concept of

- a. correlation.
- \*b. face validity.
- c. reliability.
- d. value neutrality.

9. A major problem for unobtrusive observation is:

- \*a. it tends to lack depth
- b. reactivity in the subjects
- c. not very useful in crowded, urban environments
- d. there are no major problems with unobtrusive observation

10. A researcher is conducting a study on the effects that violent video games have on aggression. 50 test subjects are given a war time action game to play while another 50 test subjects play a golf game. After playing the games, the members of both groups are placed in a nerve-racking situation and their behavior is recorded. In this experiment, the group playing the golf game is the:

- \*a. control group.
- b. primary group.
- c. experimental group.
- d. secondary group.

11. Which of the following is a hypothesis?

- \*a. As people's level of education increases, their likelihood of voting increases.
- b. Are uneducated people less likely to vote than educated people?
- c. People should vote.
- d. People should not vote unless they are informed about the issues.

12. Pick the dependent variable in the following hypothesis: the more education an individual has, the more likely they are to own their home.

- a. education level
- \*b. homeownership rate
- c. individuals
- d. all of the above

13. The younger people are when they get married, the more likely they are at some later time to get divorced. In this example, the independent variable is \_\_\_\_\_ and the dependent variable is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. younger, older.
- b. younger people, getting married
- c. likelihood of divorce, age at marriage.
- \*d. age at marriage, likelihood of divorce.

14. Which of the following would be an example of survey research?

- a. A researcher lives in a small southwestern village for six weeks and takes notes on the residents' behavior.
- b. A research listens to a Christian radio station in order to learn the political themes being presented in religious broadcasting.
- \*c. A researcher administers questionnaires about drug usage to a sample of the students at your college.
- d. All of the above.

15. A young sociologist moves into a freshman dormitory and interacts with the students in that building as though she, too, were a freshman. She does this in order to learn about their attitudes and behaviors on such issues as drug use, school work, and sexual behavior. This particular researcher is using

- a. field experimentation.
- b. unobtrusive measures.
- c. survey research.
- \*d. participant observation.

16. Which sociologist studied patterns of blood donations in France and Luxembourg, showing that differences in the system through which blood is donated, rather than in the generosity of individuals, accounted for the differences in blood donations between the two countries?

- \*a. Kieran Healy
- b. George Herbert Mead
- c. Joan McCord
- d. John Farley

17. Which sociologist hypothesized that if we can identify groups of people who are less individualistic and more integrated into some type of group life such as close families or religious groups, we would expect such people to have a lower rate of suicide?

- a. Joan McCord
- b. Jane Addams
- c. Herbert Gans
- \*d. Emile Durkheim

18. Research that is aimed at discovering the beliefs, meanings and social behaviors that lie beneath the easily observable surface is called:

- a. quantitative research.
- \*b. qualitative research.
- c. historical studies.
- d. survey research.

19. The United States census represents which of the following research methods?

- a. sampling
- b. historical research
- c. participant observation
- \*d. survey research

20. Random sampling is more likely to be used in which of the following examples?

- a. studies that desire to be unobtrusive
- \*b. studies that are trying to generalize about a larger population
- c. studies that desire great detail about each individual respondent
- d. studies with hesitant respondents

21. Cell phones have made the use of telephone surveys more problematic.

- \*a. T
- b. F

22. The statement, "more Americans than in the past do not identify with any religious organization," is a statement of values.

- a. T
- \*b. F

23. A hypothesis always takes the form of a statement.

- \*a. T
- b. F

24. Durkheim hypothesized that suicide rates would be higher for those who were married or devoutly religious.

- a. T
- \*b. F

25. When a researcher consciously manipulates an independent variable so that they may observe and measure changes in a dependent variable is an example of a random sample survey.

- a. T
- \*b. F

26. In the example, "the more education people obtain, the less prejudiced they are likely to be," people's level of prejudice would be the dependent variable.

- \*a. T
- b. F

27. Theodor Adorno's analysis of speeches by fascists is an example of research for the purpose of generating hypotheses.

- \*a. T
- b. F

28. There is always just one correct way to operationally define a variable.

- a. T
- \*b. F

29. Validity in research means that a research measure accurately measures what the researcher intends it to measure.

- \*a. T
- b. F

30. A spurious relationship occurs when Variable 1 and Variable 2 are correlated, but rather than Variable 1 causing Variable 2, some third variable is influencing both Variable 1 and Variable 2.

- \*a. T
- b. F

31. Quantitative research expresses results in numbers.

- \*a. T
- b. F

32. Participant observation research is usually more qualitative than experimental research.

\*a. T

b. F

33. Content analysis can be either qualitative or quantitative.

\*a. T

b. F

34. In an experiment, the control group goes through the pretest and posttest, but there is no manipulation of the independent variable.

\*a. T

b. F

35. A natural experiment occurs when a researcher collects data or conducts observations before and after some event that would have occurred anyway, such as people moving into different types of neighborhoods.

\*a. T

b. F

36. The U.S. Census is conducted every ten years.

\*a. T

b. F

37. In an open-ended interview, respondents decide how long the interview will last and bring their own questions and answers to the interviewer.

a. T

\*b. F

38. A sample survey is typically substantially less accurate than surveys of an entire population.

a. T

\*b. F

39. There is general agreement among social scientists about whether researchers should reveal their identity as a social researcher when conducting participant observation.

a. T

\*b. F

40. If a sociologist watched prime time television programs to determine the number and types of roles filled by white, black, and Hispanic characters, this would be an example of content analysis.

\*a. T

b. F

Essay:

41. Differentiate between theory generation and theory testing, placing each within the context of the cycle of scientific inquiry. Present an example of each type of research.

Essay:

42. Develop a hypothesis and make operational definitions for the variables you include. Identify three control variables that you think would be important to include in your analysis in order to control for spurious relationships. Explain why these are appropriate control variables.

Essay:

43. Identify two relative advantages and two relative disadvantages of experiments, survey research, observational research, and use of existing data sources.

Essay:

44. Differentiate between participant observation and unobtrusive observation. Discuss the relative advantages and disadvantages of these two methods.

Essay:

45. Your book describes three major sources of existing data used by social scientists. What are the three sources, and what are the relative advantages and disadvantages of using each of these sources?