

Chapter 2 Research Process and Considerations

2.1 Multiple Choice

- 1) A group of parents lobby their school district to remove soda vending machines in their childrens' school because they believe soda is a direct cause of childhood obesity. What is the basis for the parents' conclusion?

A) social theory B) ideology C) data gathering D) paradigms

Answer: B

Topic: *Social Theory and Ideology*

- 2) A research study in Norway found that older male siblings have higher IQ scores than younger male siblings. The researchers looked at IQ scores in 250,000 men, and found a significant difference in IQ scores in 60,000 pairs of siblings. Which research term would best describe this study?

A) proposition B) macro-theory
C) operationalization D) hypothesis

Answer: D

Topic: *Levels of Theory*

- 3) The deductive research process begins with

A) method of observation. B) hypothesis formation.
C) problem formation. D) data gathering.

Answer: C

Topic: *The Research Process: An Overview*

- 4) Which part of the research process involves tables, charts, or graphs that visually summarize statistical findings?

A) analysis B) method of observation
C) problem formation D) data gathering

Answer: A

Topic: *The Research Process: An Overview*

- 5) Which ethical guideline established by the Belmont Report refers to informed consent of participants?

A) principle of beneficence B) respect for persons
C) principle of justice D) approval compliance

Answer: B

Topic: *Ethics in Social Research*

- 6) A vitamin company hired a research team to test the effectiveness of its product. The test showed low absorption rates of the vitamins, so the company chose to bury the report to avoid future publication. Which ethical responsibility did the researchers not consider?

A) plagiarism
B) responsibility to remain value free
C) research fraud
D) being mindful of the role of organizations

Answer: D

Topic: *Ethics in Social Research*

- 7) Eric completed a survey from his company's human resource department in which he complained of poor management in his department. He learned that his supervisor was required to read the surveys, and now Eric fears for his job. What type of harm was created by this research method?

A) social B) physical C) legal D) monetary

Answer: A

Topic: *Ethics in Social Research*

- 8) Researchers can protect a subject's _____ when the researchers themselves cannot link a piece of information to a subject's individual identity.

A) confidentiality B) discretion C) anonymity D) privacy

Answer: C

Topic: *Ethics in Social Research*

- 9) When researchers write reports, they frequently provide an overview of their research process in a(n)

A) abstract. B) summary. C) outline. D) synopsis.

Answer: A

Topic: *Evaluating Written Research: Abstracts*

- 10) _____ is a social theory that might examine individual reasons why some women wait later in life to start families.

A) Meso-theory B) Micro-theory C) Typology D) Macro-theory

Answer: B

Topic: *Levels of Theory*

2.2 Fill in the Blank

- 1) _____ are the fundamental building blocks of theory that describe observations, ideas, and social life.

Answer: Concepts

Topic: *Theory and Its Parts*

- 2) When researchers attempt to make a casual connection between concepts to test and data gathered through observation, the statement is called a(n) _____.

Answer: hypothesis

Topic: *Levels of Theory*

- 3) _____ theories focus on how the wider social structure affects groups.

Answer: Macro

Topic: *Levels of Theory*

- 4) _____ are loosely structured models (or a general point of view) that organize thoughts about certain phenomena.

Answer: Paradigms

Topic: *The Link Between Theory and Research*

- 5) _____ research starts with an observation and then moves to form a theory.

Answer: Inductive

Topic: *The Link Between Theory and Research*

- 6) The process of defining concepts is called _____, which is also the first step in determining how to measure social phenomena.

Answer: operationalization

Topic: *The Research Process: An Overview*

- 7) A researcher who can identify information with a specific person, but promises not to reveal that person's identity to others, is guaranteeing _____.

Answer: confidentiality

Topic: *Ethics in Social Research*

- 8) The ethical responsibility of _____ ensures that researchers will keep any promises or agreements with subjects made during the course of the study.

Answer: reciprocity

Topic: *Ethics in Social Research*

- 9) _____ recognizes that ethics stem from social values, and that a behavior that is ethical in one context may not be in another.

Answer: Ethical relativism

Topic: *Evaluating Research: Topic Selection and Abstracts*

- 10) _____ occurs when researchers invent or intentionally distort information.

Answer: Research fraud

Topic: *Ethics in Social Research*

2.3 True/False

- 1) Explanations in ideology are usually immersed in moral debate

Answer: TRUE

Topic: *Social Theory and Ideology*

- 2) Theories discuss concepts and relate concepts to each other.

Answer: TRUE

Topic: *Levels of Theory*

- 3) Groups of paradigms constitute theories.

Answer: FALSE

Topic: *The Link Between Theory and Research*

- 4) Inductive researchers may not even have a specific research question in mind when they begin.

Answer: TRUE

Topic: *The Link Between Theory and Research*

- 5) In the research field, a hypothesis is presented as a question.

Answer: FALSE

Topic: *The Research Process: An Overview*

- 6) The analysis section of the research process is where the purpose of the research is fulfilled.

Answer: TRUE

Topic: *The Research Process: An Overview*

7) Most research articles appearing in print are peer reviewed.

Answer: TRUE

Topic: *Ethics in Social Research*

8) Excessive paraphrasing is not considered plagiarism because the information is not copied word-for-word.

Answer: FALSE

Topic: *Ethics in Social Research*

9) Social scientists have no legally recognized privilege of confidentiality and may be vulnerable to subpoenas.

Answer: TRUE

Topic: *Ethics in Social Research*

10) Researchers are required to explicitly state the purpose of their study.

Answer: FALSE

Topic: *Evaluating Written Research: Abstracts*

2.4 Essay

1) List the three areas of common ground between social theory and ideology.

Answer: 1) The social world and people's place in it are explained. 2) Relationships between concepts are expressed. 3) Concepts are linked to a wider group of ideas.

Topic: *Social Theory and Ideology*

2) Explain the primary difference between inductive and deductive research.

Answer: Deductive research begins with a theory and moves toward observation. Information is reviewed to discover what social scientists already know about a problem, and that knowledge is fit into a theory. Conversely, inductive research starts with observation and then moves to form a theory.

Topic: *The Link Between Theory and Research*

3) List and briefly explain the three ethical guidelines outlined in the Belmont Report.

Answer: 1) Respect for persons: people have the right to make decisions for themselves 2) Principle of beneficence: ensures that the research does no harm 3) Principle of justice: benefits and burdens of research distributed equitably among subjects

Topic: *Ethics in Social Research*

4) List the five ethical responsibilities that researchers have to participants.

Answer: 1) Ensure voluntary participation. 2) Obtain informed consent. 3) Protect anonymity/confidentiality. 4) Avoid harm. 5) Ensure reciprocity.

Topic: *Ethics in Social Research*

5) What are the general guidelines for evaluating abstracts?

Answer: 1) Is the purpose of the research clear? 2) Does the researcher highlight the main details of the methodology? 3) Does the researcher highlight the main findings? 4) Is the abstract strong overall? Why or why not?

Topic: *Evaluating Written Research: Abstracts*