

Unit 2- Research Methods

PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR TEST

Name: _____ Date: _____ Block: _____

1. Thinking that she had outperformed most of her classmates, Glenda was surprised to receive just an average grade on her psychology test. Glenda's experience best illustrates
 - A) overconfidence.
 - B) the hindsight bias.
 - C) the placebo effect.
 - D) negative correlation.
 - E) illusory correlation.

2. Giving half the members of a group some purported psychological finding and the other half an opposite result is an easy way to demonstrate the impact of
 - A) overconfidence.
 - B) illusory correlation.
 - C) the hindsight bias.
 - D) random sampling.
 - E) the double-blind procedure.

3. Which technique involves repeating the essence of an earlier research study with different participants and in different circumstances?
 - A) replication
 - B) correlational research
 - C) random sampling
 - D) naturalistic observation
 - E) the double-blind procedure

4. Which research method is typically used to examine one participant in depth, usually because the individual's situation/behavior is rare or unusual?
 - A) survey
 - B) correlation
 - C) experiment
 - D) case study
 - E) scientific method

5. According to Professor Fayad, we like people who like us because their affection for us boosts our own self-esteem. His idea is an example of
- A) naturalistic observation.
 - B) illusory correlation.
 - C) hindsight bias.
 - D) replication.
 - E) a theory.
6. To learn about the TV viewing habits of all the children attending Oakbridge School, Professor DeVries randomly selected and interviewed 50 of the school's students. In this instance, all the children attending the school are considered to be a(n)
- A) population.
 - B) representative sample.
 - C) independent variable.
 - D) control condition.
 - E) dependent variable.
7. A researcher interested in investigating the attitudes or opinions of a large sample of people is most likely to use which research method?
- A) survey
 - B) correlation
 - C) experiment
 - D) case study
 - E) naturalistic observation
8. Correlational research is most useful for purposes of
- A) explanation.
 - B) prediction.
 - C) control.
 - D) replication.
 - E) experimentation.
9. Which of the following correlations between annual income and education level would best enable you to predict annual income on the basis of level of education?
- A) +0.05
 - B) -0.01
 - C) +0.10
 - D) +0.50
 - E) -0.001

10. Which of the following is the best definition of *illusory correlation*?
- A) a statistical relationship between two variables
 - B) a perceived but nonexistent correlation
 - C) any independent variable that does not truly cause a dependent variable
 - D) a scatterplot indicating the likelihood that a variable will or will not change
 - E) a predication about the relationship between two variables
11. To minimize the extent to which outcome differences between experimental and control conditions can be attributed to placebo effects, researchers make use of
- A) random sampling.
 - B) the double-blind procedure.
 - C) random assignment.
 - D) operational definitions.
 - E) replication.
12. The healing power of positive expectations is best illustrated by
- A) overconfidence.
 - B) illusory correlation.
 - C) the placebo effect.
 - D) hindsight bias.
 - E) replication.
13. Which of the following statements is most correct about the relationship between correlation and causation?
- A) Correlations are statistical relationships, causations are logical relationships.
 - B) Correlation indicates the possibility of a causal relationship, but it does not prove causation.
 - C) If one variable is strongly positively correlated with another variable, the relationship is causal.
 - D) if one variable is strongly negatively correlated with another variable, the relationship is not causal.
 - E) Both correlations and causations need to be proven with experimental data.
14. Surveys indicate that people are much less likely to support “welfare” than “aid to the needy.” These somewhat paradoxical survey results best illustrate the importance of
- A) random sampling.
 - B) wording effects.
 - C) the placebo effect.
 - D) naturalistic observation.
 - E) hindsight bias.

15. Why is replication important to science?
- A) It allows you to obtain a representative sample of cases to study.
 - B) The natural setting eliminates the artificial environment of a lab.
 - C) Repeated research with similar results increases confidence in the reliability of the original findings.
 - D) Researchers can test the impact of belief on behavior.
 - E) Minimizing preexisting differences between groups increases confidence in the findings.
16. Which of the following statistical measures is most helpful for indicating the extent to which high school grades predict college grades?
- A) standard deviation
 - B) mean
 - C) median
 - D) correlation coefficient
 - E) range
17. To discover the extent to which economic status can be used to predict political preferences, researchers are most likely to use
- A) the case study approach.
 - B) naturalistic observation.
 - C) correlational measures.
 - D) experimental research.
 - E) random assignment.
18. Professor Delano suggests that because people are especially attracted to those who are good-looking, handsome men will be more successful than average-looking men in getting a job. The professor's prediction regarding employment success is an example of
- A) the hindsight bias.
 - B) the placebo effect.
 - C) a hypothesis.
 - D) illusory correlation.
 - E) an operational definition.
19. A hypothesis is a(n)
- A) observable relationship between specific independent and dependent variables.
 - B) testable prediction that gives direction to research.
 - C) set of principles that organizes observations and explains newly discovered facts.
 - D) unprovable assumption about the unobservable processes that underlie psychological functioning.
 - E) statement of procedures used to define research variables.

20. When we see certain outcomes as obvious based on what has occurred, we may be experiencing
- A) empiricism.
 - B) critical thinking.
 - C) hindsight bias.
 - D) overconfidence.
 - E) humility.
21. Abdul has volunteered to participate in an experiment evaluating the effectiveness of aspirin. Neither he nor the experimenters know whether the pills he takes during the experiment contain aspirin or are merely placebos. The investigators are apparently making use of
- A) naturalistic observation.
 - B) illusory correlation.
 - C) the double-blind procedure.
 - D) random sampling.
 - E) the overconfidence effect.
22. In a drug treatment study, participants given a pill containing no actual drug are receiving a(n)
- A) random sample.
 - B) experimental treatment.
 - C) double-blind.
 - D) replication.
 - E) placebo.
23. In an experiment, researchers manipulate one factor to see its effect on another factor, called the
- A) confounding variable.
 - B) operational definition.
 - C) control group.
 - D) placebo effect.
 - E) dependent variable.
24. Random sampling is to _____ as random assignment is to _____.
- A) correlational studies; case studies
 - B) surveys; experiments
 - C) illusory correlation; control group
 - D) replication; correlation
 - E) description; prediction

25. Which of the following is true for those assigned to a control group?
- A) The experimenter exerts the greatest influence on participants' behavior.
 - B) The research participants are exposed to all the different experimental treatments.
 - C) The research participants are exposed to the most favorable levels of experimental treatment.
 - D) The experimental treatment is absent.
 - E) The operational definition is not applied to their variables.
26. Bar graphs allow researchers to
- A) compare groups.
 - B) generalize from samples.
 - C) demonstrate significance.
 - D) visualize correlation.
 - E) avoid bias.
27. Six different high school students spent \$10, \$13, \$2, \$12, \$13, and \$4, respectively, on entertainment. The mode of this group's entertainment expenditures is
- A) \$9.
 - B) \$10.
 - C) \$11.
 - D) \$12.
 - E) \$13.
28. Mr. and Mrs. Berry have five children aged 2, 3, 7, 9, and 9. The median age of the Berry children is
- A) 3.
 - B) 6.
 - C) 7.
 - D) 8.
 - E) 9.
29. To understand the British newspaper headline "Income for 62% Is Below Average," it is necessary to appreciate the distinction between the _____ and the mean.
- A) range
 - B) standard deviation
 - C) mode
 - D) correlation
 - E) median

30. Why would the median, rather than the mean, be the appropriate measure of central tendency in determining housing values in a particular community?
- A) The median is useful for measuring how much values deviate from one another.
 - B) The median is minimally affected by extreme scores.
 - C) The median is best used to sort values into groups.
 - D) The median allows you to examine the gap between the lowest and highest value.
 - E) The median allows you to generalize from representative samples to the general population.
31. The difference between the highest and lowest scores in a distribution is the
- A) mean.
 - B) range.
 - C) median.
 - D) standard deviation.
 - E) correlation coefficient.
32. Which of the following is a measure of the degree of variation among a set of events?
- A) mean
 - B) scatterplot
 - C) standard deviation
 - D) median
 - E) correlation coefficient
33. If scores on the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS) are normally distributed, with a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 15, what percentage of scores will fall between 85 and 115?
- A) 34
 - B) 47
 - C) 68
 - D) 80
 - E) 95
34. In 1920, behaviorist John B. Watson conditioned an 8-month-old infant, Albert. He was turned over to Dr. Watson without permission. This violates which ethical principle developed by the American Psychological Association?
- A) coercion
 - B) confidentiality
 - C) debriefing
 - D) informed consent
 - E) protection from harm

35. Evelyn wants to know how consistent her bowling scores have been during the past season. Which of the following measures would be most relevant to this specific concern?
- A) mean
 - B) median
 - C) scatterplot
 - D) standard deviation
 - E) correlation coefficient
36. Seven members of a Girl Scout troop report the following individual earnings from their sale of candy: \$4, \$1, \$7, \$6, \$8, \$2, and \$7. In this distribution of individual earnings
- A) the mean is equal to the mode and equal to the median.
 - B) the mean is less than the mode and equal to the median.
 - C) the mean is equal to the mode and greater than the median.
 - D) the mean is greater than the mode and greater than the median.
 - E) the mean is less than the mode and less than the median.
37. Which measure of variation is most affected by extreme scores?
- A) mean
 - B) mode
 - C) standard deviation
 - D) range
 - E) median
38. The most commonly reported measure of central tendency is the
- A) mode.
 - B) mean.
 - C) normal distribution.
 - D) median.
 - E) standard deviation.
39. During the past year, Zara and Ivan each read 2 books, but George read 9, Ali read 12, and Marsha read 25. The median number of books read by these individuals was
- A) 2.
 - B) 50.
 - C) 10.
 - D) 12.
 - E) 9.

40. Which technique most clearly minimizes the likelihood that any outcome differences between the experimental and control conditions can be attributed to age or personality differences in research participants?
- A) replication
 - B) statistical measurement
 - C) random assignment
 - D) operational definitions
 - E) the double-blind procedure

Answer Key

- 1. A
- 2. C
- 3. A
- 4. D
- 5. E
- 6. A
- 7. A
- 8. B
- 9. D
- 10. B
- 11. B
- 12. C
- 13. B
- 14. B
- 15. C
- 16. D
- 17. C
- 18. C
- 19. B
- 20. C
- 21. C
- 22. E
- 23. E
- 24. B
- 25. D
- 26. A
- 27. E
- 28. C
- 29. E
- 30. B
- 31. B
- 32. C
- 33. C
- 34. D
- 35. D
- 36. E
- 37. D
- 38. B
- 39. E
- 40. C