

Answers to Test #1

1. Which of the following is "not" a step in the scientific process?

*Answer: Hiring Research Assistants

2. One assumption of the Scientific Method is that it is important to know things.

*Answer: True

3. The study of how we know things, is called what?

*Answer: Epistemology

4. Operational Definition implies both measurement and procedure.

*Answer: True

5. Which perspective is more aligned with the scientific method?

*Answer: Positivism

6. Replication in science involves both repetition and extension.

*Answer: True

7. Understanding the role of Plate Tectonics in the Geology of earthquakes, comes closest to what process in research

*Answer: Explanation

8. Contract research implies the use of an "R.F.P."

*Answer: True

9. Which research study raises ethical questions in social science?

*Answer: Both 1 and 3

10. Symbolic Interactionism is generally regarded as a Macro Theory in Sociology.

*Answer: False

11. Studying the gender gap in U.S. presidential elections is what form of theory?

*Answer: Idiographic

12. The demand side of the "research market" comes from the granting of PhDs by universities.

*Answer: False

13. According to your text, which of the following would not be a class of variables to be tested?

*Answer: All of the above would be variables to be tested

14. JStor is to articles as Lexus-Nexus is to Newspapers

*Answer: True

15. Which of the following is not a major source of public research money

*Answer: FOB

16. ICPSR stands for "Inter-university consortium for Practical Social Research".

*Answer: False

17. Demographic data would most likely be found in:

*Answer: Bureau of the Census

18. Bonus question: The OCLC contains more citations than Suncat

*Answer: True

19. Define the term "Operational Definition"

*Answer: A meaning given by the operations used to measure a concept.
It implies both a measurement unit and procedure for collecting it.

20. Define the term "Scientific Hypothesis"

*Answer: A statement joining two or more variables that enables testing
the assertion. It can be of a correlation or difference form.

21. Define the term "Independent Variable"

*Answer: That variable which comes logically before and influences the
outcome or dependent variable.

22. Define the term "meta-analysis"

*Answer: Aggregating all prior studies on a subject to articulate the overall
size of an independent variable(s) effect on an outcome.

23. State the two differences distinguishing the scientific method as a
process, being careful to articulate what each includes by giving examples.

*Answer: The two differences are the use of operational definitions and the
replication of findings. The former relies on having both a
measurement unit and a procedure for collecting those observations.
The latter implies that the study is both repeated and extended to
include other contexts or variables, to assess the generality of the
findings.

24. Distinguish between Macro and Micro approaches to sociology, stating at
least two theoretical perspectives in each and the probable type of research
data they would use.

*Answer: Macro approaches use structural variables to explain social
structure. The two most common approaches are Functionalism and
Conflict theory. The unit of analysis is typically groups and

institutions with emphasis on large scale survey data and secondary analysis. The Micro approach uses interpersonal variables to explain social structure. The two most common approaches are Symbolic Interaction and Exchange theory using perceptions, attitudes, language and reward/cost concepts with emphasis on experimental data (exchange theory) and participant observation (symbolic interaction).

25. Describe and contrast the three sources of motivation driving research and suggest the factors responsible for each to exist.

*Answer: The three sources discussed are: 1) personal; 2) intellectual; and 3) institutional. The first derives from ascribed and achieved characteristics and life experiences. The second derives from socialization via higher education. The third comes from market forces, particularly the supply of researchers, aka Ph.D.s, and the demand generated from public (e.g. NSF) and private (e.g. the Gate's foundation) money.

26. Contrast exploratory, explanatory and predictive approaches to research by giving examples and explaining where each fits on the continuum of operationalization.

*Answer: The three largely distinguish according to how much research precedes each. Exploratory research, by definition, has little or no other empirical findings. Explanatory research builds upon early findings in prior research. Predictive research resolves long standing conflicts in a myriad of prior literature. Thus, causal statements are virtually impossible to derive from exploratory research but is the goal of predictive research.

27. Describe the alternative electronic resources available to researchers. Be careful to categorize them according to venue and type of information provided.

*Answer: We discussed five types. They are: 1) articles, largely researched by JStor; 2) newspapers, largely analysed through Lexus-Nexus; 3) Books, accessed on our campus by Suncat; 4) The World Wide Web, largely searched by Google; and 5) data archives, through the Census for public information and ICPSR for private information.