

Test Bank for SOC 3rd Edition by Witt

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Test Bank

TRUE/FALSE. Write 'T' if the statement is true and 'F' if the statement is false.

- 1) The third step in the scientific method is reviewing the literature.

Answer: True ☒ False

- 2) In the statement, "the more a person exercises, the longer he or she will live", longevity is the independent variable.

Answer: True ☒ False

- 3) Correlations are an indication that causality is always present.

Answer: True ☒ False

- 4) Selection of a research design will influence both the cost of a research project and the amount of time needed to collect the results of the research.

Answer: ☒ True False

- 5) A magazine asks its readers to complete a survey that questions them about their sexual practices. Based on the responses that it receives, the magazine publishes an article entitled "The Sexual Practices of Men and Women in Canada". This magazine has conducted a valid random sample to support its article.

Answer: True ☒ False

- 6) An interviewer is likely to obtain a higher response rate than a printed survey form would.

Answer: ☒ True False

- 7) Content analysis of recent films has been used to demonstrate an increase in the amount of smoking shown in motion pictures.

Answer: ☒ True False

- 8) Validity refers to the degree to which a measure or scale truly reflects the phenomenon under study.

Answer: ☒ True False

MULTIPLE CHOICE. Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers the question.

- 9) Which number would be considered the mode of the following: 10-10-9-9-8-8-7-7-6-5?

A) 8 B) 10 C) 7 D) 5

Answer: C

- 10) What is the term for the relationship between a condition or a variable and a particular consequence, with one event leading to the other?

A) causal logic B) a correlation C) an index D) observation

Answer: A

- 11) A sociologist who is interested in examining racism in sports might determine what percentage of team owners, general managers, coaches, and managers are members of each racial group. This would be an example of developing what?
- A) a theory
 - B) a hypothesis
 - C) an operational definition
 - D) a research design

Answer: C

- 12) Secondary analysis is considered by sociologists to be which of the following?
- A) More reliable than other forms of research.
 - B) An outdated mode of research.
 - C) A nonreactive form of research.
 - D) More valid than other forms of research.

Answer: C

- 13) The statement "Women who receive welfare are less likely than other women to have babies" is an example of which of the following?
- A) causal logic
 - B) a hypothesis
 - C) a research design
 - D) an operational definition

Answer: B

- 14) Interviews have the advantage of a better response rate than self-administered questionnaires.

Interviews have disadvantages as well. Which of the following is a disadvantage of an interview?

- A) A research subject is more likely to share underlying feelings and reasons when completing a written questionnaire than when being interviewed by a skillful interviewer.
- B) The gender, race, appearance, or other characteristics of the interviewer may influence responses of the research subjects.
- C) A research subject is more likely to complete a written questionnaire than accept a personal request for an interview.
- D) Interview results are more difficult to interpret than self-administered results.

Answer: B

- 15) What do social scientists call the variable that is hypothesized to cause or influence another variable?
- A) a dependent variable
 - B) an independent variable
 - C) an operational variable
 - D) a spurious variable

Answer: B

- 16) To conduct a cross-cultural study of job discrimination against women, a sociologist interviews 75 women between the ages of 20 and 40 in an American city, and 75 women in the same age group in a Canadian city. What would this study be classified as?
- A) a survey
 - B) a content analysis
 - C) a secondary analysis
 - D) participant observation

Answer: A

- 17) Which of the following is NOT incorporated into the basic principles of the code of ethics for sociology?
- A) respect for subjects' privacy
 - B) acknowledgment of research collaboration
 - C) disclosure of sources of financial support
 - D) a required number of data sources
- Answer: D
- 18) The statement "People who live in poverty have shorter life expectancies than wealthier citizens" is an example of which of the following?
- A) the Hawthorne effect
 - B) a correlation
 - C) an independent variable
 - D) causal logic
- Answer: D
- 19) The statement "Eating fewer fats and carbohydrates will lead to weight loss" is an example of which of the following?
- A) causal logic
 - B) an independent variable
 - C) a correlation
 - D) a dependent variable
- Answer: A
- 20) What is a research design?
- A) An explanation of an abstract concept that is specific enough to allow a researcher to measure the concept.
 - B) A speculative statement about the relationship between two or more variables.
 - C) A detailed plan or method for scientifically obtaining data.
 - D) An indicator of attitudes, behaviour, or characteristics of people or organizations.
- Answer: C
- 21) The statement "Most homeless people are not mentally ill" is an example of which of the following?
- A) an experiment
 - B) a variable
 - C) an operational definition
 - D) a hypothesis
- Answer: D
- 22) What is the term for the relationship between two variables whereby a change in one coincides with a change in the other?
- A) a correlation
 - B) an operational definition
 - C) a scale
 - D) an index
- Answer: A
- 23) The greater likelihood of a person who is less integrated into society committing suicide illustrates which of the following?
- A) a social fact
 - B) causal logic
 - C) an undefined variable
 - D) a defined variable
- Answer: B

- 24) Your class is doing a research study on the academic success of college and university students. It has been suggested that two of the issues that many students face today which may affect their level of academic success are being employed in order to pay tuition, and peer pressure to party. Answer the following five questions designed to assess your ability to apply steps in the research process.

Analysis of the data suggests that the more hours a student works, the less they feel pressured by their party. This is an example of which type of relationship?

- A) reliability B) correlation C) causal logic D) hypothetical

Answer: C

- 25) Your class is doing a research study on the academic success of college and university students. It has been suggested that two of the issues that many students face today which may affect their level of academic success are being employed in order to pay tuition, and peer pressure to party. Answer the following five questions designed to assess your ability to apply steps in the research process.

Which of the following statements represents a valid hypothesis in which to begin the research study?

- A) The amount of peer pressure and number of hours of employment affect a student's academic success
B) The higher the peer pressure and the more hours a student works negatively affects his/her academic success
C) Students' academic success may be affected by either the amount of peer pressure or hours of employment
D) College and university students' academic success is dependent upon the amount of peer pressure they feel or the distance they travel to work.

Answer: A

- 26) Which perspective has had the greatest influence on the current generation of social researchers?

- A) conflict perspective B) feminist perspective
C) functionalist perspective D) interactionist perspective

Answer: B

- 27) What is the term for a factor held constant to test the relative impact of the independent variable?

- A) control variable B) hypothesis
C) dependent variable D) correlation

Answer: A

- 28) If you were interested in studying the relationship between date and acquaintance rape victims and the characteristics of the rapist, what would be your first step?

- A) define the problem
B) choose a research design
C) review the literature on date and acquaintance rape
D) create a hypothesis

Answer: A

- 29) What is the term for a research measure that provides consistent results?
A) valid B) independent C) reliable D) dependent
Answer: C

- 30) Sociology, at its core, represents a conversation between what?
A) dependent and independent variables B) application and understanding
C) reliability and validity D) theory and research
Answer: D

- 31) Sociological studies have indicated that people who are married are less likely to commit suicide than people who are divorced. In this example, what is marital status?
A) independent variable B) dependent variable
C) index D) hypothesis
Answer: A

- 32) The race of a criminal offender is associated with the frequency with which capital punishment is administered. In this example, what is capital punishment?
A) index B) hypothesis
C) independent variable D) dependent variable
Answer: D

- 33) Surveys most often collect and report data primarily in numerical form. What kind of data is this?
A) ethnographic B) descriptive C) qualitative D) quantitative
Answer: D

- 34) What is the initial challenge faced by participant observers such as William F. Whyte?
A) Determining which group will be the experimental group.
B) Gaining acceptance into an unfamiliar group.
C) Maintaining their objectivity when studying people face-to-face.
D) Formulating the sequence of questions in an interview.
Answer: B

- 35) Religiosity is a term for how religious an individual is. Why might it be difficult for researchers to construct a valid measure of religiosity?
A) Different religions impose different requirements on a pious adherent.
B) Most people in modern society are not religious.
C) Not all religions have the same view of the divine.
D) Different religions have different sacred texts.
Answer: A

- 36) Why was Russel Ogden, a graduate student at Simon Fraser University, initially found to be in contempt of court by the Vancouver coroner's office?
- A) Concealing information about a suspicious death.
 - B) Disagreements with university administrators over the management of sensitive research data.
 - C) Collection of personal information from vulnerable persons.
 - D) Refusal, when subpoenaed, to break the confidentiality promised to his research subjects.

Answer: D

- 37) Which of the following terms is used to describe a systematic, organized series of steps that ensures maximum objectivity and consistency in researching a problem?
- A) scientific method
 - B) social science
 - C) value neutrality
 - D) experiment

Answer: A

- 38) What kind of research relies on what sociologists see in the field and naturalistic settings, often focusing on small groups and communities?
- A) qualitative
 - B) exploratory
 - C) quantitative
 - D) descriptive

Answer: A

- 39) Sociologists, like Peter and Patricia Adler, systematically gather our stories together through research and make sense of them with which of the following?
- A) globalism
 - B) anomie
 - C) feminism
 - D) theory

Answer: D

- 40) Your class is doing a research study on the academic success of college and university students. It has been suggested that two of the issues that many students face today which may affect their level of academic success are being employed in order to pay tuition, and peer pressure to party. Answer the following five questions designed to assess your ability to apply steps in the research process.

The class has decided that they would like to determine if there is a relationship between academic success, peer pressure and employment among their school's 15,000 students. What is the most effective research design?

- A) design an experiment that compares students who are employed and students who claim to feel peer pressure
- B) have a random sample of students meet for a face-to-face interview
- C) observe groups of students' behaviour at a party
- D) have a random sample of students complete a survey questionnaire

Answer: D

- 41) Which of the following best describes the notion that the higher the level of one's education, the higher one's income level will be?
- A) correlation
 - B) operational definition
 - C) hypothesis
 - D) independent variables

Answer: C

- 42) In which type of sample does each member of the entire population being studied have the same chance of being selected?
- A) Roper sample B) random sample C) quota sample D) index sample

Answer: B

- 43) Which group of sociologists has been most influential in broadening the scope of sociological research to include traditionally marginalized groups?
- A) feminist theorists B) interactionist theorists
C) functionalist theorists D) conflict theorists

Answer: A

- 44) Which of the following is true of secondary analysis?
- A) It is easier to customize than a questionnaire.
B) It is more reliable than other forms of research.
C) It relies more heavily on personal relationships than do other forms of analysis.
D) It is more cost-effective than generating original data.

Answer: D

- 45) Which of the following is true of participant observation research?
- A) It tends to be less useful than interviews.
B) It tends to be more expensive than large-scale survey research.
C) It tends to be more time consuming than secondary analysis.
D) It relies less on personal relationships than other research techniques do.

Answer: C

- 46) Which of the following sociologists conducted an examination of suicide using secondary analysis?
- A) Émile Durkheim B) William F. Whyte
C) Max Weber D) Jane Poulsen

Answer: A

- 47) By whom was "value neutrality" in social science research initially advocated?
- A) W. E. B. Du Bois B) Émile Durkheim
C) William Zellner D) Max Weber

Answer: D

- 48) Erving Goffman's pioneering exploration of how advertising portrays women as dependent upon men is an example of what kind of research?
- A) ethnography B) survey research C) content analysis D) media analysis

Answer: C

- 49) What is the term for the number calculated by adding a series of values and then dividing by the number of values?
- A) percentage B) mode C) mean D) median

Answer: C

50) What is the term for the single most common value in a series of scores?

- A) mode B) median C) mean D) percentage

Answer: A

51) What is the term for the midpoint, or number that divides a series of values into two groups of equal numbers of values?

- A) percentage B) mode C) mean D) median

Answer: D

52) Individuals who have divorced parents are more likely to divorce than individuals who have parents who did not divorce. Of what is this statement an example?

- A) natural law B) social fact C) correlation D) theory

Answer: C

53) What is one of the major challenges of participant observation?

- A) Preparing results. B) Maintaining a degree of detachment.
C) Finding a group to study. D) Obtaining university approval.

Answer: B

54) A group of researchers designs a study to examine the effect of homeschooling on the academic performance of students in university. The researchers control for parental income and for gender. What is the independent variable in this study?

- A) academic performance B) parental income
C) gender D) homeschooling

Answer: D

55) Information on the top names for newborns in Canada and Quebec illustrates which of the following?

- A) Parents in Quebec gravitate to culturally distinctive names for their children.
B) Given names in most of the country show patterns of ethnic distinctiveness.
C) Most of the names popular for babies in Quebec are also popular in the rest of the country.
D) Information collected by institutions is of little use for purposes other than those for which it was produced.

Answer: A

56) Your class is doing a research study on the academic success of college and university students. It has been suggested that two of the issues that many students face today which may affect their level of academic success are being employed in order to pay tuition, and peer pressure to party. Answer the following five questions designed to assess your ability to apply steps in the research process.

Identify from the following list which represents the independent and dependent variable respectively

- A) peer pressure; academic success B) employment; academic success
C) academic success; tuition D) academic success; employment

Answer: D

- 57) What is the conventional operational definition of education given by the textbook?
- A) average grade/grade point
 - B) years of schooling completed
 - C) IQ
 - D) performance score on standardized tests

Answer: B

- 58) What was the source of the data collected in the research example, given in the text, on education and income?
- A) internet surveys
 - B) city directories
 - C) phone surveys
 - D) the Census of Canada

Answer: D

- 59) Secondary analysis includes a variety of research techniques that use which of the following?
- A) questionnaires and interviews
 - B) control groups
 - C) participant observation
 - D) previously collected and publicly accessible information and data

Answer: D

- 60) Which of the following is NOT included in the code of ethics for sociology?
- A) non-disclosure of sources of financial support and sponsorship
 - B) maintaining confidentiality
 - C) protection of research subjects from personal harm
 - D) objectivity and integrity in research

Answer: A

- 61) A sociologist attends meetings at all the schools and churches in his community over several years, and meets as many residents as he can for the purpose of exploring all facets of the community's social life. He then compiles a detailed description of the community. What kind of research is he doing?
- A) content analysis
 - B) ethnography
 - C) quantitative study
 - D) secondary analysis

Answer: B

- 62) If researchers wanted to examine the opinions of people listed in a city directory, they might call every tenth or fiftieth or hundredth name listed. What would this constitute?
- A) control variable
 - B) random sample
 - C) scale
 - D) quota sample

Answer: B

- 63) What is the term for an artificially created situation that allows the researcher to manipulate variables and to introduce control variables?
- A) survey
 - B) research design
 - C) replication
 - D) experiment

Answer: D

- 64) People may behave differently in artificial situations than they would in the "real world". This poses a particular problem for researchers using which of the following techniques?
- A) laboratory experiments
 - B) questionnaires
 - C) content analysis
 - D) replication

Answer: A

- 65) A researcher conducts a study and the results support neither his hypothesis nor his moral standpoint. Because of this, he decides to suppress his findings. This runs contrary to which of the following principles?
- A) confidentiality
 - B) value neutrality
 - C) informed consent
 - D) research design

Answer: B

- 66) What is commonly the second step in the scientific method?
- A) selecting the research design
 - B) defining the problem
 - C) collecting and analyzing data
 - D) reviewing the literature

Answer: D

- 67) What is the term for a testable statement about the relationship between two or more variables?
- A) sample
 - B) correlation
 - C) research design
 - D) hypothesis

Answer: D

- 68) What is the term for a study, generally in the form of an interview or a questionnaire that provides researchers with information concerning how people think or act?
- A) secondary analysis
 - B) observation research
 - C) a survey
 - D) an experiment

Answer: C

- 69) What is the term for research that collects information about a group through direct researcher participation?
- A) an experiment
 - B) secondary analysis
 - C) a survey
 - D) observation

Answer: D

- 70) Your class is doing a research study on the academic success of college and university students. It has been suggested that two of the issues that many students face today which may affect their level of academic success are being employed in order to pay tuition, and peer pressure to party. Answer the following five questions designed to assess your ability to apply steps in the research process.

Which of the following methods would feminist researchers suggest best allows the voices of the sub be heard?

- A) questionnaires
- B) secondary analysis
- C) observation
- D) experimental

Answer: C

- 71) Which sociologist argued that sociological research should focus on social change and on relevant research developed by non-sociologists?
- A) Jane Poulson
 - B) Shulamit Reinharz
 - C) Joyce Ladner
 - D) Karen Barkey

Answer: B

- 72) Which of the following is NOT true regarding actions by the Exxon Corporation after the 1989 *Valdez* disaster?
- A) Exxon offered research money for sociologists doing research on jury deliberations.
 - B) Some of the research funded by Exxon was published in peer-reviewed journals.
 - C) Exxon solicited sociologists to do research on jury deliberations.
 - D) Exxon bribed sociologists to produce research favourable to their cause.

Answer: D

- 73) Which of the following would be considered the independent variable in the text research example on impact of a post-secondary education on income?
- A) sources of income
 - B) level of income
 - C) occupation
 - D) level of education

Answer: D

- 74) A researcher studies adolescent attitudes about senior citizens by analyzing depictions of the elderly in the lyrics of popular music and the content of teen magazines. Of what is this an example?
- A) content analysis
 - B) an experiment
 - C) survey research
 - D) replication

Answer: A

- 75) What is the most common type of qualitative research?
- A) surveys
 - B) ethnography
 - C) secondary analysis
 - D) observation

Answer: D

- 76) Sociologists do research, primarily, to do what?
- A) Develop operational definitions.
 - B) Disprove the research of others.
 - C) Prove their theories correct.
 - D) Test their hypotheses.

Answer: D

- 77) By whom was the code of ethics for the discipline of sociology in Canada developed?
- A) the Auditor General for Canada
 - B) the Canadian Sociological Association
 - C) the Canadian Association of University Professors
 - D) John Porter.

Answer: B

78) What term do sociologists use to describe the phenomenon whereby subjects deviate from their typical behaviour because they realize they are under observation?

- A) skewing
- B) the spurious response
- C) the Hawthorne effect
- D) the control group effect

Answer: C

79) A sociologist decides to study the interaction among students in the college's computer centre. When the students realize they are under observation, they become shy and reserved in their interactions. Of what is this an example?

- A) replication
- B) the Hawthorne effect
- C) secondary analysis
- D) value neutrality

Answer: B

80) Selecting a research design is important because it may affect both the amount of time needed to collect the data and which of the following?

- A) The reliability of the study.
- B) The scale of the project.
- C) The cost of the project.
- D) The validity of the study.

Answer: C

81) Which of the following is an inherent problem in using secondary sources of data?

- A) The researcher may be more careless when using someone else's data.
- B) The researcher may not find the exact data needed for his or her own research.
- C) All of the analysis has been completed by an initial research team.
- D) The data are plagued with statistical errors.

Answer: B

82) In an experiment, what is the group that is not exposed to the independent variable called?

- A) the control group
- B) the experimental group
- C) the representative group
- D) the study group

Answer: A

83) What is an operational definition?

- A) A relationship between two variables whereby a change in one coincides with a change in the other.
- B) A speculative statement about the relationship between two variables.
- C) The transformation of an abstract concept into indicators that are observable and measurable.
- D) The extent to which a measure provides consistent results.

Answer: C

84) What is a variable?

- A) The extent to which a measure provides consistent results.
- B) A speculative statement about the relationship between two traits.
- C) The unintended influence that observers or experiments can have on their subjects.
- D) A measurable trait or characteristic that is subject to change under different conditions.

Answer: D

- 85) Which of the following is true of valid research measures?
- A) they are ethical standards that are followed by sociologists
 - B) they accurately measure the phenomenon under study
 - C) they provide consistent results
 - D) they are always independent, rather than dependent, variables

Answer: B

- 86) Which of the following is true of most sociologists performing research?
- A) They frequently use laboratory experiments because they are a very accurate way of examining human behaviour.
 - B) They often do not rely on experiments because the presence of a social scientist may affect the behaviour of the people being studied.
 - C) They often do not rely on experiments because they generally do not give accurate representations of group behaviour.
 - D) They do not re-create experimental conditions in the field.

Answer: B

- 87) Which of the following statements is NOT true about the contributions of feminist scholars?
- A) They have increased global awareness.
 - B) They have drawn attention to researchers' tendency to overlook women in sociological studies.
 - C) They do not factor the influence of men into their research.
 - D) They tend to involve and consult their subjects more than other researchers.

Answer: C

- 88) Income, religion, race, gender, and marital status can all be examples of which of the following?
- A) scales
 - B) variables
 - C) operational definitions
 - D) indices

Answer: B

- 89) Which of the following survey questions will likely give the researcher the best results?
- A) What was your personal income, before taxes, last year?
 - B) What was your personal income, before taxes, in the tax year ending December 31st, 2008?
 - C) What was your personal income last year?
 - D) What was your income last year?

Answer: B

- 90) What was one finding of Devah Pager's research on criminal records and employment prospects?
- A) White ex-convicts have a harder time becoming employed than Blacks with no criminal records.
 - B) most convicts released from prison each year are White.
 - C) White ex-convicts have an easier time becoming employed than Blacks with no criminal records.
 - D) gender is still a significant factor in employment opportunities.

Answer: C

SHORT ANSWER. Write the word or phrase that best completes each statement or answers the question.

- 91) Define the term scientific method and the five basic steps used in the scientific method.

Answer: Answers will vary.

The scientific method is a systematic, organized series of steps that ensures maximum objectivity and consistency in researching a problem. Conducting sociological research in the spirit of the scientific method requires adherence to a series of steps designed to ensure the accuracy of the results. The first, defining the problem; second, reviewing the literature; third, formulating the hypothesis; fourth, selecting the research design and collecting and analyzing the data; and fifth, developing the conclusion.

- 92) Discuss how a researcher might select a random sample of subjects for a research study. Which sample selection methods should researchers use, and which methods should be avoided?

Answer: Answers will vary.

A random sample is one in which every member of the study population has the same chance of being selected. This requires the researchers to have a complete list of names for members of the population. Once this has been acquired, a random number generator can be used to select the sample. Random samples maximize the likelihood that the sample will accurately mirror the population from which it is drawn. Random samples are not self-selected (express your views on our website!) nor are they haphazard (standing on a street corner grabbing people as they walk by).

- 93) Describe the various types of research designs and discuss the strengths and weakness of each design. Which type of research design is most commonly used by researchers, and which type of research design is the least reliable?

Answer: Answers will vary.

Experiments are used more extensively in psychology than they are in sociology, because it is difficult to do a true, controlled experiment on the social world. Experiments rely on controlling factors in a situation except the one you want to study. In that way, any variation in response must be due to the variable with which you are concerned, since all other variables have been held constant. Experiments are generally concerned with explaining and predicting. You can see, however, that they might be awkward to use for a great many of the questions in which social scientists are interested. No government is going to let you take two very similar communities, and increase the level of unemployment to 25% in one of them so that you can see what happens to the level of civic pride, or concern for the environment, or level of volunteerism. Social scientists are often interested in studying processes that it is either impossible or unethical to control. The second research strategy used in the social sciences is survey research. Researchers can do a variety of things with surveys. First, they can use them as a basis for beginning to describe a group, these are called 'exploratory surveys'. They are often done as the first stage of a larger project in order to help guide the researchers to the most important questions facing that group. Survey research can also be used to gauge the presence or absence of characteristics in a given population, or to get an idea about the extent to which people agree or disagree with things. Whereas experimental research needs to put their efforts into controlling as many extraneous variables as possible, survey research needs to worry about 'samples'. Researchers use samples because surveying entire populations, as the Census of Canada does, is costly, time-consuming, and not very practical for most research purposes. Surveys can be designed to describe, explain or predict. The next type of sociological data comes from fieldwork (or observation). Field research involves immersing yourself in a naturally occurring (rather than a 'staged') environment or set of events in order to gain a firsthand knowledge of the situation. Field research is a data-gathering technique most closely associated with anthropology, for which it is a mainstay, but it is also used extensively in sociology. Field research produces qualitative data and is microsociological. It usually aims to describe and understand rather than to predict and explain. Where experiments are limited by what they can control, and surveys are limited by their ability to sample, field research is primarily limited by ethical constraints involving the treatment of research subjects, and by the researchers' ability to bracket off their own preconceived notions about things, and to enter into the lived reality of those being studied. Research done in the field often takes longer than research done by other means. It is also very dependent on the personality of the researcher, since all the information they will be able to gather is dependent on people feeling comfortable with acting normally around them, and permitting them into the life of the community. The last form of data that social scientists use is called available data (secondary analysis). That means data that has already been collected by somebody else for some other reason. When people buy datasets from Statistics Canada, they are utilizing available data. When you go to the archives and look up letters written by trappers working for the Hudson's Bay Company in the 1700s, you are using available data. Available data is existing data produced for purposes not your own. Because 'available data' was not produced for your purposes, you have to be especially aware of the population for whom the data was

for your purposes, you have to be especially aware of the population for whom the data was produced, and in what ways that might bias the data. The type of research design used will depend on the questions the researchers wish to answer, and the resources they have available to them. Field research is the least reliable form of research, but it tends to produce more valid results than laboratory research.

- 94) Discuss the issue of ethics and social research. Give examples of how research could be harmful to human life.

Answer: Answers will vary.

Codes of ethics in the social sciences are designed primarily to protect research subjects from harm and secondarily to protect researchers from bias (such as disclosing funding from organizations that may have a vested interest in the results of your research). Research designs are required either to demonstrate no harm to subjects, or to provide a cost-benefit analysis of the harm, as well as the follow-up that will be provided to subjects to mitigate any harm caused. Researchers must explain to subjects how they are going to use the data that are collected, and what will happen to that data when the process is complete. Research requires the informed consent of subjects in order to proceed. Personal information about research subjects must be kept confidential unless it is otherwise agreed in advance. Protection is necessary because otherwise research might endanger its subjects. For example, let us say you are interested in studying the lives of male homosexuals in Iran. Male homosexuality in Iran is illegal and punishable by death. If the names of your subjects become known to authorities, these men stand a significant risk of losing their lives.

95) How have feminist researchers influenced the discipline of sociology?

Answer: Answers will vary.

Feminist theory can be macro or micro in scope. What is required of it is that it focus on the impacts of a social process or institution on the lives of women. Feminist theory takes as its starting point women's experience, especially in areas where the experience of men is taken as 'normal'. To the interdisciplinarity of women's studies in general, the perspectives it generated seeped into more traditional departments and forced scholars who might have been content to ignore 'those flaky women's studies people', to engage in a dialogue with these competing perspectives. This is especially true in the social sciences, where the 'discovery' of sexism has led to questions not only about what we study, but also about how we study what we study. Many researchers who work within a feminist framework argue that the nature and process of research itself needs to be reconceptualized away from what they see as the objective-empirical hegemony brought about by the androcentric structure of academic discourse. What does that statement mean in practice? First, it means a move away from the researcher - subject dichotomy in research. Instead of an expert/data source relationship, many feminists believe that truly ethical research must make the two co-participants in the research project. This means giving former 'subjects' an active role in the project: finding out what they think are the most important questions, checking your interpretations with them, ensuring that what you produce brings some benefit to the community of participants, orienting your research towards creating change as well as creating knowledge. This model of academic research is usually referred to as 'participatory action research'. Second, it involves making yourself visible in the research report. Traditional conventions of academic reporting make the researcher invisible, both through considering the context in which the researcher approaches the study to be irrelevant and also by requiring that reports be written in a third person style. Feminist academics were among the first to insist that the context in which the research is conceptualized and the researcher's investment in and relationship to it is important to the reader who must interpret the research. Feminist theory also advocates gender sensitivity in all research, that is, the acknowledgement that the experiences of women as a group and men as a group are likely to differ, and therefore, it is not valid to generalize from one to the other.

Answer Key

Testname: UNTITLED20

- 1) FALSE
- 2) FALSE
- 3) FALSE
- 4) TRUE
- 5) FALSE
- 6) TRUE
- 7) TRUE
- 8) TRUE
- 9) C
- 10) A
- 11) C
- 12) C
- 13) B
- 14) B
- 15) B
- 16) A
- 17) D
- 18) D
- 19) A
- 20) C
- 21) D
- 22) A
- 23) B
- 24) C
- 25) A
- 26) B
- 27) A
- 28) A
- 29) C
- 30) D
- 31) A
- 32) D
- 33) D
- 34) B
- 35) A
- 36) D
- 37) A
- 38) A
- 39) D
- 40) D
- 41) C
- 42) B
- 43) A
- 44) D
- 45) C
- 46) A
- 47) D
- 48) C
- 49) C
- 50) A

Answer Key

Testname: UNTITLED20

- 51) D
- 52) C
- 53) B
- 54) D
- 55) A
- 56) D
- 57) B
- 58) D
- 59) D
- 60) A
- 61) B
- 62) B
- 63) D
- 64) A
- 65) B
- 66) D
- 67) D
- 68) C
- 69) D
- 70) C
- 71) B
- 72) D
- 73) D
- 74) A
- 75) D
- 76) D
- 77) B
- 78) C
- 79) B
- 80) C
- 81) B
- 82) A
- 83) C
- 84) D
- 85) B
- 86) B
- 87) C
- 88) B
- 89) B
- 90) C
- 91) Answers will vary.

The scientific method is a systematic, organized series of steps that ensures maximum objectivity and consistency in researching a problem. Conducting sociological research in the spirit of the scientific method requires adherence to a series of steps designed to ensure the accuracy of the results. These are: first, defining the problem; second, reviewing the literature; third, formulating the hypothesis; fourth, selecting the research design and collecting and analyzing the data; and fifth, developing the conclusion.

Answer Key

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92) Answers will vary.

A random sample is one in which every member of the study population has the same chance of being selected. Random sampling requires the researchers to have a complete list of names for members of the population. Once this has been acquired, a random number generator can be used to select the sample. Random samples maximize the likelihood that the sample will accurately mirror the population from which it is drawn. Random samples are not self-selected (express your views on our website!) nor are they haphazard (standing on a street corner grabbing people as they walk by).

93) Answers will vary.

Experiments are used more extensively in psychology than they are in sociology, because it is very difficult to conduct a true, controlled experiment on the social world. Experiments rely on controlling all factors in a situation except one you want to study. In that way, any variation in response that you find must be due to the variable with which you are concerned, since all other variables have been held constant. Experiments are generally concerned with explaining and predicting. You can see, however, that they might be awkward to use for a great many of the questions in which social scientists are interested. No government is going to let you take two very similar communities, and increase the level of unemployment to 25% in one of them so that you can see what happens to the level of civic pride, or concern for the environment, or level of volunteerism. Social scientists are often interested in studying processes that it is either impossible or unethical to control. The second research strategy used in the social sciences is survey research. Researchers can do a variety of things with surveys. First, they can use them as a basis for beginning to describe a group, these are called 'exploratory surveys'. They are often done as the first stage of a larger project in order to help guide the researchers to the most important questions facing that group. Survey research can also be used to gauge the presence or absence of characteristics in a given population, or to get an idea about the extent to which people agree or disagree with things. Whereas experimental research needs to put their efforts into controlling as many extraneous variables as possible, survey research needs to worry about 'samples'. Researchers use samples because surveying entire populations, as the Census of Canada does, is costly, time-consuming, and not very practical for most research purposes. Surveys can be designed to describe, explain or predict. The next type of sociological data comes from fieldwork (or observation). Field research involves immersing yourself in a naturally occurring (rather than a 'staged') environment or set of events in order to gain a firsthand knowledge of the situation. Field research is a data-gathering technique most closely associated with anthropology, for which it is a mainstay, but it is also used extensively in sociology. Field research produces qualitative data and is microsociological. It usually aims to describe and understand rather than to predict and explain. Where experiments are limited by what they can control, and surveys are limited by their ability to sample, field research is primarily limited by ethical constraints involving the treatment of research subjects, and by the researchers' ability to bracket off their own preconceived notions about things, and to enter into the lived reality of those being studied. Research done in the field often takes longer than research done by other means. It is also very dependent on the personality of the researcher, since all the information they will be able to gather is dependent on people feeling comfortable with acting normally around them, and permitting them into the life of the community. The last form of data that social scientists use is called available data (secondary analysis). That means data that has already been collected by somebody else for some other

Answer Key

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reason. When people buy datasets from Statistics Canada, they are utilizing available data. When you go to the archives and look up letters written by trappers working for the Hudson's Bay Company in the 1700s, you are using available data. Available data is existing data produced for purposes not your own. Because 'available data' was not produced for your purposes, you have to be especially aware of the population for whom the data was produced, and in what ways that might bias the data. The type of research design used will depend on the questions the researchers wish to answer, and the resources they have available to them. Field research is the least reliable form of research, but it tends to produce more valid results than other techniques.

94) Answers will vary.

Codes of ethics in the social sciences are designed primarily to protect research subjects from harm, and to protect researchers from bias (such as disclosing funding from organizations that may have a vested interest in the results of your research). Research designs are required either to demonstrate no harm to subjects, or to provide a cost-benefit analysis of the harm, as well as the follow-up that will be provided to subjects to mitigate any harm caused. Researchers must explain to subjects how they are going to use the data that are collected, and what will happen to that data when the process is complete. Research requires the informed consent of subjects in order to proceed. Personal information about research subjects must be kept confidential unless it is otherwise agreed in advance. Protection is necessary because otherwise research might endanger its subjects. For example, let us say you are interested in studying the lives of male homosexuals in Iran. Male homosexuality in Iran is illegal and punishable by death. If the names of your subjects become known to authorities, these men stand a significant risk of losing their lives.

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