Sociology (Canadian) 9th edition Macionis Test Bank

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Test Bank for Macionis/Gerber, *Sociology*, Ninth Canadian Edition
Chapter 2: Sociological Investigation
Multiple Choice Questions

1) Fundamental to sociological investigation are two requirements—applying the sociological perspective and _____.
a. a global perspective
b. be curious and ask questions
c. truth
d. biases of the researcher
Answer: b
Page Reference: 33
Skill: Factual

2) Science can be defined as
a. a logical system that bases knowledge on direct, systematic observation.
b. belief based on faith in ultimate truth.
c. belief based on a society's traditions.
d. a logical system that bases truth on political goals.
Answer: a
Page Reference: 34
Skill: Conceptual

3) Sociologists use the term "empirical evidence" to refer to
a. information that is based on a society's traditions.
b. information that squares with common sense.
c. information we can verify with our senses.
d. information that most people agree is true.
Answer: c
Page Reference: 34
Skill: Conceptual

4) The sociological perspective reveals that
a. "common sense" is usually pretty close to the truth.
b. much of what passes for "common sense" in Canada turns out to be at least partly wrong.
c. most people in Canada readily see how society shapes our lives.
d. "common sense" is not very popular in Canada.
Answer: b
Page Reference: 34
Skill: Factual

5) Which of the following terms is defined in the text as "a mental construct that represents some part of the world in a somewhat simplified form"?
a. variable
b. operationalization
c. measurement
d. concept
Answer: d
Page Reference: 35
Skill: Conceptual

6) Imagine that you were going to measure the age of a number of respondents taking part in a survey. As you record the data, you are using the concept "age" as
a. a theory.
b. a hypothesis.

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c. a variable.
d. an axiom.
Answer: c
Page Reference: 35
Skill: Applied

7) If you were trying to measure the “social class” of various people, you would have to keep in mind that
a. it is necessary to specify exactly what you are measuring.
b. you must measure this in every way possible.
c. there is no way to measure “social class.”
d. everyone agrees on what “social class” means.
Answer: a
Page Reference: 35
Skill: Factual

8) What process involves deciding exactly what is to be measured when assigning value to a variable?
a. operationalization
b. reliability
c. conceptualization
d. validity
Answer: a
Page Reference: 35
Skill: Conceptual

9) Exposing a correlation as spurious is assisted by a technique called
a. reliability.
b. variability.
c. correlation.
d. control.
Answer: d
Page Reference: 37
Skill: Conceptual

10) In the process of measurement, *reliability* refers to
a. whether you are really measuring what you want to measure.
b. how dependable the researcher is.
c. whether or not everyone agrees with the study’s results.
d. whether repeating the measurement yields consistent results.
Answer: d
Page Reference: 36
Skill: Conceptual

11) What concept below refers to measuring exactly what one intends to measure?
a. congruence
b. validity
c. repeatability
d. reliability
Answer: b
Page Reference: 36
Skill: Conceptual

12) With regard to the process of measurement, which of the following statements is true?
a. For measurement to be reliable, it must be valid.
b. For measurement to be valid, it must be reliable.
c. All measurement is both reliable and valid.

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d. Consistency does not guarantee validity.
Answer: d
Page Reference: 36
Skill: Applied

13) A theory states that increasing a person's formal education results in increased earnings over a lifetime. In this theory, "higher education" is the
a. independent variable.
b. dependent variable.
c. correlation.
d. effect.
Answer: a
Page Reference: 36
Skill: Applied

14) Two variables are said to display correlation if
a. they are caused by the same factor.
b. one occurs before the other.
c. both measure the same thing.
d. they vary together.
Answer: d
Page Reference: 36–37
Skill: Conceptual

15) An apparent, although false, association between two variables that is caused by some third variable is called
a. a spurious correlation.
b. an unproven correlation.
c. an unreliable correlation.
d. an invalid correlation.
Answer: a
Page Reference: 37
Skill: Conceptual

16) The ability to neutralize the effect of one variable in order to assess the relationship between two other variables is called
a. making the correlation spurious.
b. making the correlation reliable.
c. control.
d. causing the correlation.
Answer: c
Page Reference: 37
Skill: Conceptual

17) Which of the following is true about cause-and-effect relationships in the social world?
a. Most patterns of behaviour have a single cause.
b. Most patterns of behaviour have no cause at all.
c. Most patterns of behaviour are caused by many factors.
d. It is impossible to determine the cause, if any, of any behaviour pattern.
Answer: c
Page Reference: 37
Skill: Factual

18) Which of the following statements is NOT part of the definition of a cause-and-effect relationship?
a. Both variables must be shown to be independent.

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b. The independent variable must come before the dependent variable in time.
c. The two variables must display correlation.
d. There must be no evidence that the correlation is spurious.
Answer: a
Page Reference: 37
Skill: Conceptual

19) The ideal of objectivity means that a researcher
a. must not care personally about the topic being studied.
b. must try to adopt a stance of personal neutrality toward the outcome of the research.
c. must study issues that have no value to society as a whole.
d. must carry out research that will encourage desirable social change.
Answer: b
Page Reference: 37–38
Skill: Conceptual

20) The sociologist who called on his colleagues to be value-free was
a. Karl Marx.
b. Emile Durkheim.
c. Herbert Spencer.
d. Max Weber.
Answer: d
Page Reference: 38
Skill: Factual

21) Imagine that you are repeating research done by someone else in order to assess its accuracy. You are doing which of the following?
a. replication
b. objectification
c. reliability
d. scientific control
Answer: a
Page Reference: 38
Skill: Conceptual

22) Sociologists cannot precisely predict any person's behaviour because
a. everyone behaves in the same way, so there's no need to predict.
b. social patterns that are found in one time and place may not be found in others.
c. humans do not like being observed.
d. they can; that's the whole point of sociology.
Answer: b
Page Reference: 39
Skill: Factual

23) Interpretive sociology is sociology that
a. focuses on action.
b. sees an objective reality "out there."
c. focuses on the meaning people attach to behaviour.
d. seeks to bring about change.
Answer: c
Page Reference: 39
Skill: Conceptual

24) Which of the following is true about scientific sociology?
a. It focuses on the meaning people attach to behaviour.

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b. It seeks to bring about desirable social change.
c. It favours qualitative data.
d. It favours quantitative data.
Answer: d
Page Reference: 38–39
Skill: Factual

25) Which of the following statements about critical sociology is true?
a. Critical sociology focuses on the meaning people attach to behaviour.
b. Critical sociology seeks to bring about desirable social change.
c. Critical sociology endorses the principle of being value-free.
d. Critical sociology opposes social change.
Answer: b
Page Reference: 40
Skill: Factual

26) Critical sociology can best be described as a(n) _____ approach.
a. activist
b. scientific
c. qualitative
d. value-free
Answer: a
Page Reference: 40
Skill: Factual

27) Which of the following is one of the five ways that gender can shape research as identified by Eichler?
a. sapphocentricity
b. tunnel-vision
c. correlation
d. androcentricity
Answer: d
Page Reference: 41–42
Skill: Conceptual

28) In making judgments about how society should be improved, the _____ approach in sociology rejects Max Weber's goal that researchers be value-free.
a. interpretive
b. critical
c. scientific
d. positivist
Answer: b
Page Reference: 40
Skill: Factual

29) Which German word meaning "understanding" was used by Max Weber in describing his approach to sociological research?
a. Gemeinschaft
b. Gesellschaft
c. Verstehen
d. Verboten
Answer: c
Page Reference: 39
Skill: Conceptual

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30) If you have been criticized for “androcentricity” in your research, you are being criticized for
a. overgeneralizing your results.
b. ignoring gender entirely.
c. doing the research from a male perspective.
d. using double standards in your research.
Answer: c
Page Reference: 41
Skill: Applied

31) Drawing conclusions about all of humanity based on research using only males as subjects is the problem called
a. androcentricity.
b. overgeneralization.
c. gender blindness.
d. using double standards.
Answer: b
Page Reference: 41
Skill: Conceptual

32) You are doing research and you never stop to think about the possible importance of gender at all. Your work could be criticized for the problem called
a. androcentricity.
b. overgeneralization.
c. gender blindness.
d. employing double standards.
Answer: c
Page Reference: 41
Skill: Conceptual

33) Who of the following notes the ways in which relations between men and women depend on economic conditions?
a. Dorothy Smith
b. Irene Murdock
c. Susan Wendell
d. Meg Luxton
Answer: a
Page Reference: 43
Skill: Factual

34) Which of the following statements about ethical research is included in the formal guidelines made by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the American Sociological Association?
a. Researchers must always perform their research several times in order to ensure its accuracy.
b. Researchers must disclose their sources of funding for the research.
c. Researchers must disregard the privacy of subjects taking part in a research project.
d. Researchers must ensure the research goals take precedence over the safety of subjects taking part in a research project.
Answer: b
Page Reference: 44
Skill: Factual

35) If you are conducting sociological research that very closely follows the logic of science, which research method are you most likely to be using?
a. interviews
b. the experiment
c. questionnaires

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d. participant observation
Answer: b
Page Reference: 44
Skill: Applied

36) “A statement of a possible relationship between two or more variables” is the definition of which concept?
a. theory
b. correlation
c. spurious correlation
d. hypothesis
Answer: d
Page Reference: 44
Skill: Conceptual

37) Three researchers wish to test the effects of playing soft music during an exam on the test performance of their sociology students. They conduct an experiment in which one test-taking class hears music and another does not. In experimental terms, the class hearing the music is called
a. the placebo.
b. the control group.
c. the experimental group.
d. the dependent variable.
Answer: c
Page Reference: 45
Skill: Applied

38) Which sociological research method is most likely to produce quantitative data that will identify cause-and-effect relationships?
a. the experiment
b. the survey
c. participant observation
d. secondary analysis
Answer: a
Page Reference: 44
Skill: Applied

39) What term refers to any change in a subject’s behaviour caused by the awareness of being studied?
a. invalid response
b. unreliable response
c. the Stanford effect
d. the Hawthorne effect
Answer: d
Page Reference: 46
Skill: Conceptual

40) What research method was used in Philip Zimbardo’s study, the Stanford County Prison?
a. the experiment
b. the survey
c. participant observation
d. secondary analysis
Answer: a
Page Reference: 46
Skill: Conceptual

41) Zimbardo’s Stanford County Prison experiment found that

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a. all post-secondary students have the innate ability to be cruel.
b. prison violence is rooted in the social character of jails themselves.
c. no reform is needed in our society's prisons.
d. harm to subjects is not possible in an experiment.
Answer: b
Page Reference: 46
Skill: Conceptual

42) Which research method asks subjects to respond to a series of items in a questionnaire or an interview?
a. secondary research
b. participant observation
c. the experiment
d. the survey
Answer: d
Page Reference: 47
Skill: Conceptual

43) A smaller number of people used to represent an entire population is called a
a. target group.
b. sample.
c. closed-format group.
d. sampling frame.
Answer: b
Page Reference: 47
Skill: Conceptual

44) In a questionnaire, asking respondents to identify their income level from a number of possible categories represents which of the following?
a. a closed-ended format
b. an open-ended format
c. a self-administered format
d. a qualitative survey.
Answer: a
Page Reference: 48
Skill: Conceptual

45) In a questionnaire, the question, "Please state your opinions about the likelihood of another major terrorist attack at home." is an example of which of the following?
a. closed-ended format
b. open-ended format
c. experimental design
d. dependent variable
Answer: b
Page Reference: 48
Skill: Conceptual

46) Sniderman, in his attempt to answer questions about anti-Semitism in Canada, used which of the following research methods?
a. an experiment
b. surveys
c. participant observation
d. interviews
Answer: b
Page Reference: 49

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Skill: Conceptual

47) In his research, Sniderman found thats
a. French-speaking Quebeckers are more anti-Semitic than English-speaking Canadians.
b. English-speaking Canadians are more anti-Semitic than French-speaking Quebeckers.
c. Western Canadians are more anti-Semitic than Eastern Canadians.
d. Northern Canadians are more anti-Semitic than Southern Canadians.
Answer: a
Page Reference: 49–50
Skill: Factual

48) One disadvantage of conducting interviews is that this research method
a. does not permit follow-up questions.
b. does not allow subjects' answers to be detailed.
c. results in a very low response rate.
d. may easily allow the researcher to influence subjects' responses.
Answer: d
Page Reference: 48–49
Skill: Factual

49) When you see a table in a journal article or book, the first thing you should read is the
a. column on the far left.
b. top row of information.
c. title of the table.
d. column on the far right.
Answer: c
Page Reference: 53
Skill: Conceptual

50) William Foote Whyte's study of Cornerville (Street Corner Society) used which sociological research method?
a. experiment
b. survey
c. participant observation
d. secondary analysis
Answer: c
Page Reference: 51
Skill: Factual

51) William Foote Whyte's study of Cornerville (Street Corner Society) showed that
a. Cornerville was a liberal community with many Harvard students.
b. Cornerville was a chaotic and very dangerous slum.
c. Cornerville was a complex community that did not fit simple stereotypes.
d. a Harvard sociologist was unable to work in a low-income community.
Answer: c
Page Reference: 51–52
Skill: Factual

52) You wish to conduct an exploratory and descriptive study of people in a particular neighbourhood. You have plenty of time, but little money or other resources. What research method should you use?
a. an experiment
b. a survey
c. participant observation
d. secondary analysis
Answer: c

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Page Reference: 50–51
Skill: Applied

53) _____ is a form of secondary analysis that entails the counting or coding of the content of written, aural, or visual materials.
a. Cultural analysis
b. Content analysis
c. Historical analysis
d. Census data
Answer: b
Page Reference: 52
Skill: Conceptual

54) Your text notes that one of the best-known early content analyses of the twentieth century is
a. Weber's *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism.*
b. Thomas and Znaniecki's *The Polish Peasant in Europe and America.*
c. Zimbardo's *Stanford County Prison.*
d. Whyte's *Street Corner Society.*
Answer: b
Page Reference: 52
Skill: Factual

55) Which sociological research method is best used to study what cannot be directly observed, such as attitudes and values, among large numbers of people?
a. the experiment
b. the survey
c. participant observation
d. secondary analysis
Answer: b
Page Reference: 47
Skill: Applied

56) Which sociological research method provides the best chance to understand social behaviour in a natural setting?
a. the experiment
b. the survey
c. participant observation
d. secondary analysis
Answer: c
Page Reference: 50–51
Skill: Applied

57) Which sociological research method is likely to be most difficult to replicate?
a. the experiment
b. the survey
c. participant observation
d. secondary analysis
Answer: c
Page Reference: 50–51
Skill: Applied

58) Which sociological research method saves the time and expense of data gathering, but the researcher has no control over possible data bias?
a. the experiment
b. the survey

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c. participant observation
d. secondary analysis
Answer: d
Page Reference: 52
Skill: Applied

59) Once you have identified a topic for your research, what should you do next?
a. choose a method of research
b. review the literature on the same topic
c. assess your financial needs
d. collect data
Answer: b
Page Reference: 56
Skill: Conceptual

60) Inductive logical thought involves
a. turning theories into hypotheses suitable for testing.
b. selecting a research method based on available resources.
c. doing research about the past.
d. transforming specific observations into general theory.
Answer: d
Page Reference: 55
Skill: Conceptual

61) Deductive logical thought involves
a. turning theories into hypotheses suitable for testing.
b. selecting a research method based on available resources.
c. doing research about the past.
d. transforming specific observations into general theory.
Answer: a
Page Reference: 55–56
Skill: Conceptual

62) Which of the following is a way in which people can mislead others with statistics?
a. The data presented is too confusing for anyone to understand, which is used to fool people into believing what is being said.
b. People interpret the data to lead their readers to a desired conclusion.
c. Graphs are often colourful and their images are distracting.
d. They can't. Statistics exist to prevent the use of data to mislead.
Answer: b
Page Reference: 56
Skill: Factual

True/False Questions

63) Two simple requirements that underlie the process of sociological investigation are (1) looking at the world using the sociological perspective, and (2) becoming curious and asking questions.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 33
Skill: Factual

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64) The sociologist recognizes that there are various kinds of “truth.”
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 33
Skill: Factual

65) Faith, accepted wisdom, and scientific knowledge are all equally valid forms of truth, sociologically speaking.
a. True
Incorrect
b. False
Correct
Answer: b
Page Reference: 33–34
Skill: Conceptual

66) Science is a logical system based on intuition and insight.
a. True
Incorrect
b. False
Correct
Answer: b
Page Reference: 34
Skill: Conceptual

67) Empirical evidence refers to what we can verify with our senses.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 34
Skill: Conceptual

68) Reliability refers to the quality of consistency in measurement.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 36
Skill: Conceptual

69) Validity is the quality of measurement gained by actually measuring what you want to measure.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 36
Skill: Conceptual

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70) A variable that is changed by another variable is called the “independent variable.”
a. True
Incorrect
b. False
Correct
Answer: b
Page Reference: 36
Skill: Conceptual

71) The variable that causes change in another variable is called the “dependent variable.”
a. True
Incorrect
b. False
Correct
Answer: b
Page Reference: 36
Skill: Conceptual

72) Any time two variables are statistically related, a cause-and-effect relationship exists.
a. True
Incorrect
b. False
Correct
Answer: b
Page Reference: 36–37
Skill: Conceptual

73) Replication is one way to assess the accuracy of existing research.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 38
Skill: Conceptual

74) A false correlation between two variables, caused by some third variable, is described as a “spurious” correlation.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 37
Skill: Conceptual

75) Correlation is causation.
a. True
Incorrect
b. False
Correct
Answer: b
Page Reference: 36–37
Skill: Conceptual

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76) Natural scientists often have an easier time than social scientists in identifying cause-and-effect relationships.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 37
Skill: Factual

77) Sociologists always achieve complete personal objectivity in their work
a. True
Incorrect
b. False
Correct
Answer: b
Page Reference: 38
Skill: Factual

78) Max Weber urged sociologists to strive toward the goal of being value-free.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 38
Skill: Factual

79) The logic and methodology of science guarantee that sociological research will result in objective, absolute truth.
a. True
Incorrect
b. False
Correct
Answer: b
Page Reference: 38–39
Skill: Factual

80) Interpretive sociology focuses less on action itself and more on the meaning people attach to their actions.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 39–40
Skill: Conceptual

81) Scientific sociologists make use of what Max Weber called *Verstehen* to make sense of their surroundings.
a. True
Incorrect
b. False
Correct
Answer: b

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Page Reference: 39
Skill: Conceptual

82) Interpretive sociology considers subjective feelings to be a source of bias.
a. True
Incorrect
b. False
Correct
Answer: b
Page Reference: 39
Skill: Factual

83) Critical sociology both studies society and tries to bring about social change.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 40
Skill: Factual

84) The analysis of Karl Marx represents the critical approach in sociology.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 40
Skill: Factual

85) Gender blindness is the problem of failing to consider the importance of gender in sociological research.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 41
Skill: Factual

86) According to Dorothy Smith, women's lives are significantly affected by capitalism or patriarchy.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 43
Skill: Conceptual

87) Causality is always determined mathematically.
a. True
Incorrect
b. False
Correct
Answer: b

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Page Reference: 43
Skill: Conceptual

88) Sociological research can never be harmful to subjects.
a. True
Incorrect
b. False
Correct
Answer: b
Page Reference: 44
Skill: Factual

89) To identify cause-and-effect relationships, it is usually necessary to exercise experimental control of variables.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 44–45
Skill: Factual

90) The very fact of observing people may affect their behaviour.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 39
Skill: Factual

91) In Zimbardo's Stanford County Prison research, "violence" was the independent variable.
a. True
Incorrect
b. False
Correct
Answer: b
Page Reference: 46–47
Skill: Applied

92) Zimbardo's Stanford County Prison research lasted for a little over 6 months.
a. True
Incorrect
b. False
Correct
Answer: b
Page Reference: 46–47
Skill: Factual

93) A random sample is likely to represent the population from which it is drawn.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a

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Page Reference: 47
Skill: Factual

94) Haphazardly selecting people as they walk down the street is a convenient and useful way to generate a random sample.
a. True
Incorrect
b. False
Correct
Answer: b
Page Reference: 47
Skill: Applied

95) A survey is a research method in which subjects respond to a series of items or questions.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 47
Skill: Conceptual

96) A closed-ended questionnaire format generally makes it easier to analyze results compared to an open-ended questionnaire format.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 48
Skill: Factual

97) Conducting interviews takes no more time than completing questionnaires and gives just as good results.
a. True
Incorrect
b. False
Correct
Answer: b
Page Reference: 48
Skill: Factual

98) Participant observation is a research method in which researchers stand back, watch, and carefully record the behaviour of others.
a. True
Incorrect
b. False
Correct
Answer: b
Page Reference: 50–52
Skill: Factual

99) Participant observation research is usually explanatory, identifying cause-and-effect relationships.
a. True
Incorrect

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b. False
Correct
Answer: b
Page Reference: 50–52
Skill: Factual
100) The use of existing data and documents (secondary analysis) makes most historical research possible.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 52
Skill: Factual

101) Inductive logical thought turns theory into testable hypotheses.
a. True
Incorrect
b. False
Correct
Answer: b
Page Reference: 55–56
Skill: Conceptual

102) "Statistical evidence" may or may not be the same as truth.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a
Page Reference: 53–54
Skill: Factual

Short Answer Questions

103) Discuss the idea that science is one form of truth.
Page Reference: 33–34
Skill: Conceptual

104) How does a researcher transform a concept into a variable?
Page Reference: 35
Skill: Conceptual

105) Thinking about measuring a variable, how is reliability different from validity? Which concept implies the other?
Page Reference: 36
Skill: Conceptual

106) List the three conditions required to establish cause and effect in social scientific research.
Page Reference: 37
Skill: Factual

107) What is a spurious correlation?
Page Reference: 37
Skill: Conceptual

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108) What did Max Weber mean by “value-free” research?
Page Reference: 38
Skill: Conceptual

109) What are the essential differences between scientific sociology, interpretive sociology, and critical sociology?
Page Reference: 35–41
Skill: Conceptual

110) Provide one strength and one limitation of each of the major research methods described in this chapter: experiment, survey, participant observation, and secondary analysis.
Page Reference: 44–54
Skill: Applied

111) Discuss what you learned from Table 2-2, Labour-Force Participation and Income of Aboriginal Men and Women.
Page Reference: 53
Skill: Conceptual

Essay Questions

112) What makes science a special “way of knowing”? What are important traits of scientific sociology? How does interpretive sociology differ from scientific sociology?
Skill: Conceptual

113) How does critical sociology differ from scientific sociology? What are the differences in terms of the basic image of society as well as the goals of research?
Skill: Conceptual

114) None of the major methods of sociological research—experiment, survey, participant observation, and secondary research—is better than any other in an absolute sense, but each is suitable for addressing a certain type of question or situation. Explain why this is true, and provide illustrations along with your arguments.
Skill: Applied

115) How does inductive logical thought differ from deductive logical thought? How can a researcher benefit from using both kinds of thinking?
Skill: Conceptual

116) Outline the ten steps in the process of carrying out sociological investigation. You may use the format presented in the text; that is, what specific questions must be answered as a researcher moves along?
Skill: Factual

117) How and why is gender important in research? What are some of the problems in research that involve gender? How about race and ethnicity? How should a researcher take account of race and ethnicity when planning research?
Skill: Applied

118) Your friend has just given you an article to read that claims that AIDS was brought to Earth by aliens from another planet. Using the knowledge gained in Chapter 2 of the text on sociological investigation, how might you go about beginning the process of critiquing this article? Explain in as much detail as possible.
Skill: Applied

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119) Why is it necessary for researchers to understand a good deal about the way of life of the people they are studying? What problems could arise if, say, a researcher started research on the Amish, Aboriginal peoples, or some distinctive other category of people and had no understanding of their way of life?
Skill: Applied

Quick Quiz: Multiple Choice Questions

1) Critical sociology can best be described as a(n) _____ approach.
a. activist
b. scientific
c. qualitative
d. value-free
Answer: a

2) Qualitative research has special appeal to investigators who favour which theoretical approach?
a. the structural-functional approach
b. the symbolic-interaction approach
c. the social-conflict approach
d. the social-control approach
Answer: b

3) A researcher doing participant observation may "break in" to a setting more easily with the help of a(n)
a. key informant.
b. research assistant.
c. bigger budget.
d. official declaration from a scholarly authority.
Answer: a

4) The sociologist who called on his colleagues to be value-free was
a. Karl Marx.
b. Emile Durkheim.
c. Herbert Spencer.
d. Max Weber.
Answer: d

5) In making judgments about how society should be improved, the _____ approach in sociology rejects Max Weber's goal that researchers be value-free.
a. interpretive
b. critical
c. scientific
d. positivist
Answer: b

6) William Foote Whyte's study of Cornerville (Street Corner Society) used which sociological research method?
a. experiment
b. survey
c. participant observation
d. secondary analysis
Answer: c

7) Which German word meaning "understanding" was used by Max Weber in describing his approach to sociological research?

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a. Gemeinschaft
b. Gesellschaft
c. Verstehen
d. Verboten
Answer: c

Quick Quiz: True/False Questions

8) A positivist approach assumes that reality exists “out there.”
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a

9) Natural scientists often have an easier time than social scientists in identifying cause-and-effect relationships.
a. True
Correct
b. False
Incorrect
Answer: a

Quick Quiz: Short Answer Question

10) List the three conditions required to establish cause and effect in social scientific research.

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