Fundamentals of Social Research (Canadian) 5th edition Babbie Test Bank

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Name:_____ Class:_____ Date:_____

Chapter 1 - Human Inquiry and Science

1. In contrast to knowing things only through personal experience, what is considered a key source of knowledge?
   a. media b. current trends
   c. general agreement d. historical fact

ANSWER: c

2. How do we primarily know what we know?
   a. through empirical evidence b. through personal experience
   c. through agreement reality d. through scientific discovery

ANSWER: c

3. Which is the best description of methodology?
   a. the science of knowing
   b. the science of finding out
   c. the discovery of reality through agreement
   d. the discovery of reality through personal experience

ANSWER: b

4. "Agreement reality" refers to things that we know. What is this knowledge based upon?
   a. our personal experience and discovery
   b. the culture we belong to
   c. our discussions and debates with people around us
   d. the systematic gathering of information

ANSWER: b

5. Which form does a probabilistic explanation take?
   a. *x* is always *y* b. *x* is never *y*
   c. *x* tends to be *y* d. *y* is always *x*

ANSWER: c

6. Which of the following is a probabilistic statement?
   a. When serving as jurors, women always vote for acquittal.
   b. When serving as jurors, women never vote for acquittal.
   c. When serving as jurors, women tend to vote for acquittal.
   d. When serving as jurors, it is unlikely women will vote for acquittal.

ANSWER: c

7. "Sensitivity training reduces racial bias." What type of statement is this?
   a. a theory b. a probabilistic statement
   c. a thesis statement d. a knowledge agreement

ANSWER: b

8. If you marry young in life – generally speaking, below age 25 – your marriage might last a lifetime but your chances of divorce are ultimately much higher than if you postponed it until your late twenties. This is an example of the _____ nature of cause and effect.
   a. empirical b. rigorous

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c. logical d. probabilistic

ANSWER: d

9. Suppose that you come across a well-publicized case of poison being found in a child's Halloween candy bag. Concluding from this case that there is an epidemic of attacks on trick-or-treaters by homicidal strangers be an example of

a. inaccurate observations b. overgeneralization

c. selective observation d. illogical reasoning

ANSWER: b

10. On the day of your test, you read your daily Horoscope. It predicts that you will be on an intellectual low that day, although your personal relationships will thrive. If you end up with a poor test mark and also get dumped by your significant other that day, concluding that your horoscope was accurate be an example of

a. inaccurate observations b. overgeneralization

c. selective observation d. illogical reasoning

ANSWER: c

11. Which of the following is among the safeguards against error in social research?

a. making observations less deliberate

b. replicating under slightly varying circumstances

c. using only simple measurement devices

d. avoiding independent replications by other researchers

ANSWER: b

12. In an attempt to research people's level of life satisfaction, Professor Stevenson studied 300 people aged 65 or older. It was observed that life satisfaction levels increased from 1977 to 1990. From this sample, it was also concluded that people under 65 years of age were having the same experience. Which error has been committed?

a. the error of overgeneralization b. the error of inaccurate observation

c. the error of illogical reasoning d. the error of selective observation

ANSWER: a

13. In an attempt to find general patterns, researchers specifically study deviant cases to see how they do not "fit in." What type of error does this help the researcher avoid?

a. overgeneralization b. selective observation

c. inaccurate observations d. illogical reasoning

ANSWER: b

14. What characteristic does scientific inquiry have that non-scientific inquiry does not?

a. It takes special precautions to avoid errors.

b. It is a semiconscious activity.

c. It is an activity in which we are less concerned about making mistakes.

d. Its procedures guard against all errors.

ANSWER: a

15. In order to understand the experiences of first-year university students, a researcher developed a large random sample of students to interview. He ensured the sample was representative of the diversity within the general student population. By doing so, what error of inquiry has the researcher managed to avoid?

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a. selective observation b. inaccurate observation
c. illogical reasoning d. overgeneralization

ANSWER: d

16. Which of the following errors in inquiry is most clearly exemplified by the conclusion that "people are more likely to win the lottery if they haven't bought many tickets for a while"?

a. inaccurate observations b. selective observation
c. overgeneralization d. illogical reasoning

ANSWER: d

17. One of your friends has earned As on her last 10 exams. Although she studied and felt well-prepared for the most recent exam, she told you, "I know I'm going to flunk this exam. I've been doing too well on exams and it is bound to happen at some point." What error is your friend committing?

a. illogical reasoning b. inaccurate observation
c. selective observation d. overgeneralization

ANSWER: a

18. Your best friend is terrified of flying, but wants to go backpacking in Europe with you next month. He is convinced that the fact that there have been no major airline crashes during the past year means that there is bound to be one soon, so he is thinking of cancelling his ticket. What is his form of reasoning known as?

a. confirmation bias b. non-causal reasoning
c. the gambler's fallacy d. inaccurate observation

ANSWER: c

19. What comprises what we know to be "reality"?

a. concrete and abstract experience b. propositions and statements
c. everyday reality and experiential reality d. real and imagined experience

ANSWER: a

20. What is the term for ideas that help us to understand how two concepts are related to one another?

a. theories b. propositions
c. observations d. concrete experiences

ANSWER: b

21. What are the two foundations of science?

a. theory and logic b. observation and logic
c. observation and theory d. logic and experience

ANSWER: b

22. What aspect of science does theory deal with?

a. observational b. logical
c. critical d. political

ANSWER: b

23. Which of the following debates would science be unable to settle?

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a. the existence of one God or many gods
b. the role of humans in causing climate change
c. whether or not findings can ever be replicated
d. the extent to which women are more emotional than men

ANSWER: a

24. What does social scientific theory address?
a. what should be b. what is and why
c. matters of value d. how and where

ANSWER: b

25. Which of the following is NOT an aim of social science?
a. judging social values b. predicting social phenomena
c. understanding social regularities d. explaining social regularities

ANSWER: a

26. What is the statement "wealthy countries should give aid to poorer countries" an example of?
a. a hypothesis b. a theory
c. a value judgment d. a premature closure of inquiry

ANSWER: c

27. Which of the following would a sociologist be LEAST likely to study?
a. why rates of theft are increasing in rural Saskatchewan
b. the incidence of child abuse in middle-income families
c. why a celebrity couple got divorced
d. why unemployment rates are higher for ethnic minorities

ANSWER: c

28. Which of the following is a list of variables?
a. plumber, professor, dentist
b. occupation, political party preference, birthrate
c. 21, violent, social class
d. dishonest, conservative, farmer

ANSWER: b

29. Which of the following could be an attribute of the variable "social class"?
a. income b. education
c. status d. middle

ANSWER: d

30. Which of the following concepts does NOT constitute a variable?
a. high school education b. race
c. political orientation d. income

ANSWER: a

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31. Richard examined the following categories of undergraduate students: full-time, part-time, and flex-time. What are these categories known as?

a. concepts b. variables

c. classes d. attributes

ANSWER: d

32. Professor Stevenson found that the average level of life satisfaction reported by citizens of Denmark was the highest in the world. Stevenson also found that the average level of life satisfaction reported by citizens of Burundi was the lowest in the world. What were the variables in this study?

a. average level and region b. Denmark and Burundi

c. life satisfaction and country d. citizens and life satisfaction

ANSWER: c

33. A study reported in a major Canadian journal in 2016 was titled "Differences in Academic Achievement among Immigrant and Non-Immigrant Children." Which of the following was probably the independent variable in this study?

a. immigrant status b. sexual activity

c. adolescence d. women

ANSWER: a

34. What is an independent variable?

a. a theoretical concept

b. a variable that influences other variables

c. a variable that is influenced by other variables

d. a set of attributes

ANSWER: b

35. "Exposure to classical music increases IQ scores." This hypothesis is an example of what kind of statement?

a. nomothetic b. informal

c. idiographic d. causal

ANSWER: d

36. What is the independent variable in the following research question? "Do people who experience economic deprivation during their childhood place a relatively greater priority on economic self-interest later in life?"

a. economic self-interest b. later life

c. people d. economic deprivation

ANSWER: d

37. Paul wants to do a study on how drug use is associated with teenagers' grades in high school. What can be said about this research?

a. It will likely be qualitative in nature.

b. The dependent variable is grades.

c. The dependent variable is drug use.

d. The hypothesis is that drug use has no impact on grades.

ANSWER: b

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38. A research project was developed that looked at gender and occupational choice. In the theoretical model, what type of variable is occupational choice?

a. the independent variable b. the intervening variable

c. the dependent variable d. the logical variable

ANSWER: c

39. A government inquest into the death of a child in foster care is an example of which of the following forms of explanation?

a. nomothetic b. inductive

c. idiographic d. descriptive

ANSWER: c

40. After examining court records, Jennifer concludes that mothers are more likely to obtain custody of their children than fathers. What type of explanation is this?

a. nomothetic b. idiographic

c. overgeneralized d. illogical

ANSWER: a

41. Professor Morriseau wants to understand the educational choices that students make. He asks the question "What factors influence program choice among first-year undergraduates in Ontario?" What kind of explanation will asking this question provide?

a. inductive b. nomothetic

c. deductive d. idiographic

ANSWER: b

42. Drawing on past research, Evan would like to test the hypothesis that first-year university students have more difficulty balancing their studies with part-time employment than students did twenty years ago. What approach is he taking to the research subject?

a. productive b. inductive

c. reactive d. deductive

ANSWER: d

43. Sally begins to think about the classes she is enrolled in at her university. She notices that she speaks a lot in three of her classes and very little in two others. She begins to list all her courses, the gender of the professor, and whether or not she spoke in the class. She notices that she tends to speak in classes where the instructor is female and rarely speaks when the instructor is male. How can we describe how Sally came to this understanding?

a. inductive reasoning b. qualitative analysis

c. deductive reasoning d. ordinary human inquiry

ANSWER: a

44. Your theory suggests that things like heavy alcohol use are primarily learned behaviours. Reasoning that alcohol overuse becomes normalized if one grows up around it, you hypothesize that children who had at least one parent who drank heavily are more likely than other people to be become heavy drinkers themselves. What is your approach here called?

a. primarily deductive b. primarily inductive

c. neither inductive nor inductive d. about equally inductive and deductive

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ANSWER: a

45. What statement best describes deductive approaches to social theory and research?
    a. Deductive begins with big things and moves toward small things.
    b. Deductive begins at the bottom and moves toward the top.
    c. Deductive begins at a micro level and moves toward a macro level.
    d. Deductive begins with theoretical ideas and moves toward observable things.

ANSWER: d

46. What statement best describes inductive approaches to social theory and research?
    a. Inductive begins with specific observations and moves toward general ideas.
    b. Inductive begins at the top and moves toward the bottom.
    c. Inductive begins at the top of society and moves toward the bottom of society.
    d. Inductive begins with small things and moves toward big things.

ANSWER: a

47. Your local newspaper reports a high-profile suicide. At age 14, a girl named Suzanne committed suicide after years of being bounced around several foster homes, drug addiction, and sexual exploitation. A public inquest was held in order to gain an understanding all of the circumstances surrounding Suzanne's death. What kind of explanation is presented to help us understand this case?
    a. idiographic b. nomothetic
    c. probabilistic d. quantitative

ANSWER: a

48. At the outset of any study, every observation can potentially be which of the following?
    a. quantifiable b. qualitative
    c. unmeasurable d. descriptive

ANSWER: b

49. What is one benefit of quantification?
    a. It often makes our observations more implicit.
    b. It can make it easier to aggregate data.
    c. It can make it easier to collect data.
    d. It helps add a richness to our understanding of the data.

ANSWER: b

50. When describing qualitative and quantitative explanations, what can we conclude?
    a. Both types of explanations tend to be idiographic.
    b. Both types of explanations tend to be nomothetic.
    c. Qualitative explanations tend to be idiographic, and quantitative explanations tend to be nomothetic.
    d. Qualitative explanations tend to be nomothetic, and quantitative explanations tend to be idiographic.

ANSWER: c

51. What does the statement "Knowledge for knowledge's sake" best describe?
    a. pure research b. applied research

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c. inductive logic d. deductive logic

ANSWER: a

52. Which one of these would be the MOST appropriate way to quantify the abstract concept of success?

a. how happy someone is in their job b. whether a person has earned any awards

c. the likelihood of a person getting a raise d. a person's feelings about their boss

ANSWER: b

53. To study the effectiveness of a new educational program, Emily designs an experiment to assess its success. She measures student ability before and after the program, to try to establish whether there has been an increase in ability that can be attributed to the new resource. What type of research has Emily designed?

a. pure research b. social impact assessment research

c. applied research d. basic research

ANSWER: c

54. Among the following, which is the best example of pure research?

a. an evaluation of the effectiveness of a water sanitation program in reducing maternal mortality in Ghana

b. an experiment to test whether or not a new drug shrinks cancerous tumours

c. depictions of childbirth in nineteenth-century romance novels

d. a campus-wide survey of students' mental health needs during exams

ANSWER: c

55. Mixed methods researchers can do all of the following EXCEPT which one?

a. give priority to one form of data over another

b. use qualitative data

c. use quantitative data

d. rely on single viewpoints

ANSWER: d

56. Which of the following describes what is involved in triangulation?

a. different methods, observers, or data sources

b. different methods or observers but only for the same data source

c. different methods but the same observers and data source

d. different data sources or observers but only for the same methods

ANSWER: a

57. Which of the following is a distinction of the primary method of MMR notation?

a. using parentheses ( ) around signs and symbols only

b. using a parallel sign (//) to indicate a concurrent/parallel design

c. using a plus sign (+) for sequential design

d. writing in upper case

ANSWER: d

58. Which MMR design type is depicted in the following sequence of steps? Qualitative data collection and analysis > Builds to > Quantitative data collection and analysis > Interpretation

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a. convergent parallel b. explanatory sequential
c. exploratory sequential d. embedded

ANSWER: c

59. Which MMR design type is depicted in the following sequence of steps? Quantitative data collection and analysis > Follow-up with > Qualitative data collection and analysis > Interpretation

a. convergent parallel b. explanatory sequential
c. exploratory sequential d. embedded

ANSWER: b

60. You conduct several focus groups with university students about their attitudes toward vaping and the approach they think governments should take toward regulating its advertising. At the end of the group discussions you ask participants to fill out a 10-minute survey questionnaire containing quantitative questions related to vaping, such as the extent to which they feel that it is dangerous on a scale of 1–10, as well as their own sociodemographic characteristics. You would like to use your focus group sample to test the survey before you administer it to a larger sample of students. Which of the following MMR design types have you used?

a. convergent parallel b. explanatory sequential
c. exploratory sequential d. embedded

ANSWER: d

61. The misuse of authority refers to experts who publicly discuss matters outside their area of expertise.

a. True
b. False

ANSWER: True

62. We can predict without understanding.

a. True
b. False

ANSWER: True

63. Theory that is logically inconsistent is acceptable as long as it is empirically accurate.

a. True
b. False

ANSWER: False

64. Social scientific research aims at determining logical and persistent patterns of regularities in social life.

a. True
b. False

ANSWER: True

65. Science can settle debates about values.

a. True
b. False

ANSWER: False

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66. Social researchers focus their attention on individual cases.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: False

67. Social theory has to do with what *is* and *why*, not with what *should be*.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: True

68. If an exception is found to a sociological pattern, the pattern is invalid.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: False

69. The variable *plumber* has the attribute of occupation.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: False

70. An independent variable is presumed to cause a dependent variable.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: True

71. Idiographic explanations are inductive and nomothetic explanations are deductive.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: False

72. Every observation is quantitative at the outset.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: False

73. Qualitative data can be richer in meaning than quantified data.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: True

74. It is possible to quantify non-numerical concepts.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: True

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Chapter 1 - Human Inquiry and Science

75. Pure research creates knowledge for knowledge's sake.
    a. True
    b. False

ANSWER: True

76. Non-scientific concerns shape the activities of social researchers.
    a. True
    b. False

ANSWER: True

77. How is causal inquiry influenced by our sources of knowledge? How can our conclusions be flawed as a result?

ANSWER: Causal inquiry is aimed at predicting future events; it is a way by which humans ensure their survival. We often rely on tradition to help us make those predictions, such as knowing that exercise helps us live longer. Or we rely on physicians as authorities on what sorts of behaviours are healthy. Causal inquiry can be flawed when it is based on limited experiences, such as assuming that exercise won't help your longevity since your active grandparents died young. Something like tradition alone is not sufficient either, since there are many practices that are common but unhealthy. Tradition might tell us that hard work is a virtue—the Protestant work ethic—but it is not good for our health when we work to the point of constant exhaustion.

78. Explain what is meant by the statement "Both tradition and authority, then, are double-edged swords in the search for knowledge about the world."

ANSWER: It means that both have their benefits and drawbacks, and they can both help and hinder inquiry. For example, authority figures can sometimes be wrong. If you ever had a high school teacher who gave you incorrect advice about biological facts, this will sound familiar to you. (For example, should you really put a spoon in the mouth of a person who is having a seizure? No, it is dangerous—but teachers have been known to say such things, especially when they are teaching other subjects like art.) When students are expected to accept what teachers say simply because they are teachers, inaccurate learning can ensue.

79. You are interested in knowing more about people who are known child abusers, and based on media accounts, you notice that people who are on trial for child abuse tend to have a higher than average likelihood of having been child abuse victims themselves. Discuss the extent to which we can use clinical or actual prediction in this instance, and why.

ANSWER: In this case we would use clinical prediction, because by understanding the histories of child abusers, we are developing an understanding of the causal mechanisms of child abuse.

80. Discuss how scientific inquiry tries to avoid the common pitfalls that produce error in non-scientific inquiry.

ANSWER: We can reduce error simply by making deliberate observations. While this might sound obvious at first, when you think about it, many things that we take for granted as true have not been carefully observed. For example, we might assume that crime is always on the increase, when in fact the murder rate has decreased over time in many places. Scientists are also careful not to overgeneralize, such as assuming that a brief spike in murders indicates a long-term trend. A prominent case of homicide by a stranger likewise does not prove the theory that murders tend to be at the hands of strangers, and scientists try to track the source of murders overall rather than selectively observe a prominent case while ignoring the fact that most victims were known to the murderer.

81. While on vacation, during a stopover in Panama, I noticed that most of the wait staff I encountered were of Asian descent. I thus concluded that most individuals who work as waiters/waitresses in Panama are Asian. Is my conclusion justified? Why or why not?

ANSWER: It is an instance of overgeneralization, which is unjustified because you have not compared the variety of wait staff you encountered to the wait staff that others have encountered. Perhaps Asians are actually a small

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proportion of wait staff. You have based your conclusion on your rather limited personal experience.

82. Your friend Joshua tells you the tragic story regarding his proximate family and airplane rides. His grandfather underwent an emergency landing in the Ottawa River following an impact with a bird during takeoff. His cousin Vince died in an Air Canada flight that suffered mechanical failures while flying over Mexico. His brother broke his arm while foolishly attempting to fit into an airplane bathroom with his girlfriend last year. His mother's plane experienced engine failure during a transatlantic flight to Spain.

Despite his family's unfortunate past with airplanes, Joshua feels no worries when flying. He explains this by saying that since so many members of his family have already experienced flight incidents, which are statistically rare, the chances of him personally experiencing a flight disturbance are much lower than those of the average person. Is Joshua's conclusion justified? Why or why not?

ANSWER: No, but only because he feels that his risk is lower; probabilistically speaking we have no reason to believe his should be any lower. It uses illogical reasoning to assume that independent events can impact other independent events. Only magic or supernatural forces could make that occur, and scientists rely on reason.

83. Discuss how the scientific method is an approach to correcting inaccuracies of ordinary human inquiry.

ANSWER: Ordinary inquiry tends to be based upon personal experiences. But those experiences are only a partial reflection of reality, and may differ from other people's experiences. For example, we might assume that finishing a university degree won't make a difference in the job market because a sibling hasn't had as much career success after graduation as they had hoped. But if we were to look at overall patterns, we would find that in the long run, a university degree increases chances of establishing a career. It may not guarantee success in everyone's case, but based on larger numbers of people we know that it improves the probability of success.

84. Your family is horrified at your announcement that you plan to get married to a person whom you have been dating for just six weeks. You reason with them that your aunt and uncle married after a whirlwind courtship as well, and they recently celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. What is the problem with your reasoning?

ANSWER: Exceptions do not invalidate general patterns (social regularities). Generally speaking, marriages in which partners have not known each other for very long rarely last. This is not a guarantee that your marriage will fail, but probabilistically speaking, its chances of success are not good.

85. On your most recent Research Methods exam, your professor gave you the following question: "Pretend that you are going to conduct a study of the relationship between socioeconomic status and happiness. Please identify the attributes of these two variables." In your answer, you provide detailed descriptions, such as "Happiness can mean different things to different people, but generally it refers to a positive state of well-being. Socioeconomic status can include a variety of attributes, such as one's education and income." *Explain why you would fail this test question.*

ANSWER: In the language of variables, attributes are the specific scores on a variable, so that put together, they make up that variable. Think about them in terms of measurement rather than conceptual meaning. Socioeconomic status may have attributes such as lower, medium, and higher. Happiness may include attributes such as not at all happy, somewhat happy, and very happy.

86. List five sociological variables and their attributes.

ANSWER: Answers may vary. Examples might include: 1. Age (18, 19, 20, etc.); 2. Educational Level (Less than High School, High School Diploma, Some Postsecondary, Complete Postsecondary); 3. Marital Status (Never Married, Married, Separated, Widowed, Divorced); 4. Sex (Male, Female); 5. Home Ownership (Own, Rent).

87. Explain the difference between idiographic and nomothetic explanations. Which type is associated with quantitative research and which is associated with qualitative research?

ANSWER: Idiographic explanations try to exhaust all possible reasons for a single event, such as the reason that a young

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man was murdered. Nomothetic explanations try to explain a broad category of events, such as the factors that place young men at risk of being murdered, such as age and involvement in the drug trade. Nomothetic explanations tend to be associated with quantitative research, since it involves comparing a variety of cases for common variables. Idiographic explanations tend to be qualitative, since the researcher needs to delve deeply into the specific details of the case.

88. A non-profit child welfare organization is evaluating two competing research proposals in order to decide which one will get grant money to carry out their project. Both proposals are of high quality and are being seriously considered for funding; they merely differ in approach. One proposal is to examine the case of a young boy who died of a sudden illness while in foster care, in order to determine the boy's family history, his health history, the characteristics of the foster family, monitoring of his care by authorities, and so on. The other study wants to examine all available case records of children who died while in foster care in order to identify factors that they had in common, such as the number of children in the home, whether or not the children tended to have existing health issues, and so on. Which types of explanation are involved in each study? Explain your answer.

ANSWER: The first study is idiographic because it is trying to understand all of the circumstances of this particular case in which a boy died. Such research often points to the need for future research to see if there are common factors in similar cases. The second study is nomothetic, in that it is trying to identify a set of common factors that each case of child death has in common, through a larger sample of similar cases.

89. How do qualitative and quantitative approaches differ in terms of skills and procedures? State the main distinction between the two, and how you might research the same topic from each approach.

ANSWER: Qualitative researchers are skilled at listening and taking notes that reflect their subject's point of view, and they tend to observe smaller samples of people. They carefully analyze these notes to look for general patterns. A quantitative researcher's strengths lie in making broad statements based upon specific questions posed to larger numbers of people. They are skilled statisticians. If we want to measure attitudes toward immigration, a qualitative researcher might conduct a focus group in which members have a conversation about immigration. The researcher looks for patterns of statements. A quantitative researcher would likely conduct a survey of a larger sample and look for statistical patterns of response, such as the percentage of respondents who favour increased immigration levels and whether those percentages differed by age.

90. Suppose that a research team wanted to use official records to test the labelling theory of crime, in other words that deeming a person a "criminal" in fact encourages them to continue with criminal behaviour. They looked at records of first-time offenders who were convicted for petty crimes (giving them a criminal record) compared to those who were given leniency by the courts (no criminal record), to see whether or not the first group were convicted of more serious crimes within the following five years. Would they be using an inductive or a deductive approach? Explain your answer.

ANSWER: In this case they would be using a deductive approach because they are beginning with a general theory (labelling) and testing it in a specific situation (criminal records.) Inductive research does not generally begin with a theory, but instead develops a general theory based on specific observations.

91. You decide to survey group of university students about their stress levels at the start of the term and then again at the end of the term. You hope that making at least two measurements will enhance your understanding of the dynamics of academic stress. Explain why you would or would not call this a mixed methods approach.

ANSWER: Mixed methods approaches combine at least one different qualitative and quantitative method to gain a deeper understanding of an issue. If you had combined one or more surveys with focus groups about stress, you would have a mixed methods approach.

92. What is triangulation? When would you use it?

ANSWER: Triangulation refers to an emphasis on using different methods, data sources, or observers to measure and understand a phenomenon. The logic is that we enhance validity when we examine an issue from different vantage points. For example, if you wanted to research campus protests about racism, you might interview

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members of the student body as well as members of the administration to gain an understanding of how both groups view the issue. They might view it similarly in some ways, or differently in other ways, but you would get only a partial view of the issue if you interviewed just one group or the other.

93. What are the strengths of mixed methods research?

ANSWER: Mixed methods research offsets the disadvantages of any particular method. No method (or type of informant) is perfect, nor can it answer most questions as richly as we would like. A survey or interview can help give us a general sense of the extent to which crime is a serious concern for members of a community. But they won't give us the same picture of crime as if we were to survey or interview local law enforcement, who might see crime from a different perspective because they not only are on the front lines every day but also are responsible for tracking crime patterns. By measuring both types of informant, we are mixing methods to get a fuller picture of the issues involved.

94. What are the strengths of using different types of informants in MMR?

ANSWER: Mixed methods research offsets the disadvantages of any particular method. Different types of informant might see issues differently, just as you might view your family dynamics differently than your parents do. For example, a survey or interview can help give us a general sense of the extent to which crime is a serious concern for members of a community. But they won't give us the same picture of crime as if we were to survey or interview local law enforcement, who might see crime from a different perspective because they not only are on the front lines every day but also are responsible for tracking crime patterns. By measuring both types of informant, we are mixing methods to get a fuller picture of the issues involved.

95. What are the differences between explanatory and exploratory sequential MMR designs?

ANSWER: Explanatory sequential designs begin with quantitative data collection and analysis, and follow up with qualitative data collection and analysis and final interpretation. In that sense the word "explain" makes sense because qualitative data can add richness and context to further illuminate and interpret quantitative results. Exploratory sequential designs do the opposite, in that they begin with qualitative data, which can help inform their survey design process rather than going in blind per se. Exploratory designs are particularly useful for topics that are not yet well understood, so we don't have standard survey items to measure them. Qualitative methods are one way of developing those tools of quantitative measurement by revealing which dimensions of a topic are important to consider.

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