Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology 9th edition Maxfield Test Bank

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Name:_____ Class:_____ Date:_____

Ch01 - Crime, Criminal Justice, and Scientific Inquiry

1. We live in a world of two realities: empirical and agreement.
   a. True
   b. False

ANSWER: False

2. Casual human inquiry is a more rigorous way of investigation than probability and causality.
   a. True
   b. False

ANSWER: False

3. The keystone of inquiry is observation.
   a. True
   b. False

ANSWER: True

4. We can understand something by knowing the why before the what.
   a. True
   b. False

ANSWER: False

5. Selective observation is a danger of overgeneralization.
   a. True
   b. False

ANSWER: True

6. The tendency to overgeneralize is probably greatest when there is an absence of pressure to reach a judgement.
   a. True
   b. False

ANSWER: False

7. Inquiry is hindered when we depend on the authority of experts who are speaking outside their realm of expertise.
   a. True
   b. False

ANSWER: True

8. The four purposes of research are exploration, description, explanation, and application.
   a. True
   b. False

ANSWER: True

9. The National Criminal Justice Reference Service was established in 1972 to
   a. sort computer readouts and news reports on crime trends.
   b. share applied research on law enforcement and general justice problems.
   c. archive and distribute research reports to criminal justice professionals.
   d. solely provide grant opportunities.

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ANSWER: c

10. The role of the Bureau of Justice Statistics is to
    a. collect and disseminate criminal justice statistics, including information about crime and victims of crime.
    b. sort computer readouts and news reports on crime trends.
    c. share applied research on law enforcement and general justice problems.
    d. solely provide grant opportunities.

ANSWER: a

11. We live in a world of two realities known as
    a. expressed and assumed.
    b. experiential and agreement.
    c. expressed and agreement.
    d. experiential and assumed.

ANSWER: b

12. Things we know from direct experience are a direct result of which type of reality?
    a. Agreement
    b. Expressed
    c. Assumed
    d. Experiential

ANSWER: d

13. Things we consider real because we've been told they are real is an example of
    a. agreement reality.
    b. expressed reality.
    c. assumed reality.
    d. experiential reality.

ANSWER: a

14. A research project concerning law enforcement that produces an alternative view of a practice represents
    a. known reality.
    b. expressed reality.
    c. empirical reality.
    d. experiential reality.

ANSWER: d

15. Traditional beliefs about patrol effectiveness, response time, and detective work are examples of
    a. known reality.
    b. agreement reality.
    c. experiential reality.
    d. assumed reality.

ANSWER: b

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Ch01 - Crime, Criminal Justice, and Scientific Inquiry

16. Scientists must have two types of support before they will agree on something they haven't personally experienced. These types are
    a. epistemological and methodological.
    b. logical and hard facts.
    c. logical and empirical.
    d. hard facts and complete data.

ANSWER: c

17. What is the science of knowing?
    a. Methodology
    b. Entomology
    c. Modality
    d. Epistemology

ANSWER: d

18. What method is known as the science of finding out?
    a. Epistemology
    b. Methodology
    c. Observations
    d. Data gathering

ANSWER: a

19. Which two questions does human inquiry attempt to answer?
    a. Where and when
    b. Who and why
    c. How and when
    d. What and why

ANSWER: d

20. Prediction can be made better by observation and remembering regular
    a. assumptions.
    b. patterns.
    c. educated guesses.
    d. past experiences.

ANSWER: b

21. Acceptance of knowledge that others give us is known as
    a. authority.
    b. tradition.
    c. agreement reality.
    d. understanding.

ANSWER: c

22. When we rely on the "truths" of our culture, we are accepting knowledge derived from the majority, and this is called

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acceptance of

a. traditions.
b. myths.
c. reality.
d. agreement.

ANSWER: a

23. As we learn about the world around us, we use personal inquiry and direct experience. However, what other sources of knowledge do we rely on?

a. Tradition and authority
b. Exploration and description
c. Surveys and observations
d. Aggregate data and survey data

ANSWER: a

24. When we trust the judgments of people who have received special training, such as a doctor or a lawyer, we are accepting their

a. wisdom.
b. expertise.
c. authority.
d. word.

ANSWER: c

25. When we rely on authority to get information about the world around us, which of the following is most likely?

a. The resulting information is always correct.
b. The information can both help inquiry and hinder it.
c. The resulting information is always wrong.
d. You can never know if the information you gather is correct.

ANSWER: b

26. Selective observation can be the result of

a. replication.
b. illogical reasoning.
c. ideology and politics.
d. overgeneralization.

ANSWER: d

27. Criminologist Samuel Walker compared ideological bias in criminal justice research to theology by stating

a. “Faith is never a consideration.”
b. “Faith triumphs over facts.”
c. “Faith can coexist with facts.”
d. “Faith is always defeated by facts.”

ANSWER: b

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Ch01 - Crime, Criminal Justice, and Scientific Inquiry

28. Which of the following would be the best example of the potential for inaccurate observations in the criminal justice system?
    a. Eyewitness testimony
    b. Police officers on a stake-out
    c. The state witnesses at an execution
    d. Correction officers watching a potentially suicidal prisoner

ANSWER: a

29. When there is pressure to reach a general understanding, there is a tendency toward
    a. overgeneralization.
    b. inaccurate observations.
    c. illogical reasoning.
    d. miscalculation.

ANSWER: a

30. When you repeat a study to see if you achieve similar results, you are doing
    a. too much work.
    b. following the pattern.
    c. replication.
    d. theoretical repetition.

ANSWER: c

31. Overgeneralization can lead to misunderstanding and
    a. justification.
    b. simplification.
    c. complication.
    d. replication.

ANSWER: a

32. If you have concluded that a particular pattern exists and have developed a general understanding of why, you may be tempted to ignore facts in the future that don't fit. This is
    a. inaccurate observation.
    b. overgeneralization.
    c. illogical reasoning.
    d. selective observation.

ANSWER: d

33. During observation, if you choose to follow "the exception that proves the rule," you have made what error?
    a. Inaccurate observation
    b. Overgeneralization
    c. Illogical reasoning
    d. Selective observation

ANSWER: c

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Ch01 - Crime, Criminal Justice, and Scientific Inquiry

34. According to the text, illogical reasoning is best illustrated by which of the following?
    a. The weather has been good all month, so this weekend the weather will be good enough to go to the beach.
    b. I have lost at gambling for hours now, so if I just pay a little longer, I will win back what I have lost.
    c. On my way to work, I always ease through the stop sign at the corner of the school's parking lot, and as I have never been hit there, I will continue to do that.
    d. The last two exams were easy, so there is no need for me to study for this exam.

ANSWER: b

35. The point where scientific observation differs from our casual human inquiry is that it is
    a. a directed activity.
    b. a subconscious activity.
    c. a formal activity.
    d. an informal activity.

ANSWER: a

36. Research into crime is related to ideology and politics in the following manner:
    a. Crime should not be used as a political issue.
    b. Ideological or political views on criminal justice issues can undermine objectivity.
    c. There is no political nature to the study of crime.
    d. There are no ideological issues in the study of crime.

ANSWER: b

37. Statisticians refer to "Gambler's fallacy" as this type of reasoning:
    a. Analytical
    b. Logical
    c. Irrational
    d. Rational

ANSWER: c

38. What are three major aspects of the overall scientific enterprise?
    a. Theory, data collection, selective observation
    b. Theory, data collection, data analysis
    c. Data collection, data analysis, funding
    d. Theory, data analysis, funding

ANSWER: b

39. Social science cannot settle debates on
    a. facts.
    b. observations.
    c. logic.
    d. values.

ANSWER: d

40. Who said, "Unthinking respect of authority is the enemy of truth"?

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a. Albert Einstein
b. Samuel Walker
c. Emile Durkheim
d. Nancy La Vigne

ANSWER: a

41. Which of the following explicitly addresses causality and probability and offers techniques for managing them?
a. Science
b. Faith
c. Human inquiry
d. Nature

ANSWER: a

42. Concrete steps that are used to measure specific procedure are referred to as
a. operationalization.
b. observations.
c. application.
d. conceptualization.

ANSWER: a

43. This type of research may be appropriate when a policy change is being considered.
a. Descriptive
b. Exploratory
c. Explanatory
d. Applied

ANSWER: b

44. Social science involves the study of
a. positives and negatives.
b. variables and concepts.
c. variables and paradigms.
d. variables and attributes.

ANSWER: d

45. Why is a survey the most appropriate method for studying general concern and fear for personal safety?
a. It is an organized approach to a large research sample.
b. It allows for understanding of what cannot be observed directly.
c. It is easy for the survey takers to understand what is being asked of them.
d. It is the most efficient research method to analyze results.

ANSWER: b

46. Why are websites unreliable literature sources?
a. They are not reviewed by librarians.
b. They can be updated on a regular basis.

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c. They are rarely reviewed or refereed.
d. They do not do a good job of synthesizing information.

ANSWER: c

47. Which of the following is a budget consideration for a research proposal?
a. Deadlines
b. Scheduling
c. Travel
d. Gathering references

ANSWER: c

48. What factor has caused related problems when separating Internet research findings?
a. Unreliable government sources
b. Poor Wi-Fi
c. Too much information on too little topics
d. The demented ramblings of ideologues

ANSWER: d

49. What are two types of applied research?
a. Evaluation and problem analysis
b. Descriptive research and evaluation
c. Explanatory research and descriptive research
d. Explanatory research and problem analysis

ANSWER: a

50. What is the proper workflow for creating a research project?
a. conceptualize, observe, analyze, apply
b. observe, analyze, apply, conceptualize
c. choose research method, conceptualize, analyze, apply
d. choose research method, conceptualize, apply, analyze

ANSWER: a

51. What are the four purposes of research?
a. Exploration, description, explanation, application
b. Exploration, description, funding, application
c. Exploration, development, inquisition, funding
d. Exploration, development, inquisition, application

ANSWER: a

52. When we attempt to gather baseline data, usually because of new technology or some new law, the purpose of our research is
a. exploration.
b. description.
c. explanation.

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d. application.

ANSWER: a

53. When a policy change is being considered, the most appropriate study would be
a. descriptive.
b. explanatory.
c. explorative.
d. applicative.

ANSWER: c

54. You observe police activity in your city for one week, and then you describe what you observed. What type of study have you performed?
a. Explorative
b. Descriptive
c. Explanative
d. Applicative

ANSWER: b

55. When we do a study to determine why people have different opinions on the same topic, what is the purpose for the study?
a. Exploration
b. Description
c. Explanation
d. Application

ANSWER: c

56. When we attempt to answer questions about why something happens, the purpose of our research is
a. exploration.
b. description.
c. explanation.
d. application.

ANSWER: c

57. What are the two major types of applied research?
a. Evaluation and problem analysis
b. Evaluation and policy analysis
c. Application and policy analysis
d. Problem and policy analysis

ANSWER: a

58. Your college has implemented a new policy on campus regarding underage drinking. You want to evaluate its effects. The purpose of your research is
a. exploration.
b. description.

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c. explanation.
d. application.

ANSWER: d

59. A great place to start when conducting a literature review is
a. a scholarly journal.
b. a previous research study.
c. a library.
d. a data software program.

ANSWER: c

60. Which of the following is an important element that is often overlooked when creating a research project?
a. The budget
b. The population
c. Research methods
d. Stakeholders

ANSWER: a

61. When is an Internet search good for getting ideas about potential research topics?
a. When specialized tools are used
b. All the time
c. Internet searches are not good; book-bound journals are better.
d. When you are late on an assignment

ANSWER: a

62. The research process starts with
a. observations.
b. data processing.
c. an idea.
d. research methods.

ANSWER: c

63. Doing a literature review should be
a. done only when one has to do it.
b. done in pieces to set up a research problem.
c. systematic and deliberate.
d. unorganized.

ANSWER: c

64. Stepping on a thorn for the first time and realizing that it is painful before anyone tells you it is painful is an example of
a. agreement reality.
b. inaccurate observation.
c. experiential reality.

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d. a nomothetic explanation.

ANSWER: c

65. Which of the following describes the role of politics in social science/CJ research?
a. Can play a role
b. Never plays a role
c. Rarely plays a role
d. Plays an essential role

ANSWER: a

66. Which of the following best defines conceptualization of a research process?
a. The manner in which variables are defined
b. How a population is decided upon
c. The specific analytic structure used for a study
d. The initial concept used for a study

ANSWER: d

67. Samantha has concluded that living in a co-ed residence hall makes residents more alike. As she continues her research, she tends to focus on events and situations that fit this pattern. Which error in inquiry is reflected?
a. Inaccurate observation
b. Selective observation
c. Overgeneralization
d. Illogical reasoning

ANSWER: c

68. The first part of most scholarly journal articles is
a. the introduction.
b. the discussion section.
c. a research abstract.
d. the methods section.

ANSWER: c

69. Brainstorming and specifying all the concepts to be discussed in the research project is known as
a. analysis.
b. application.
c. conceptualization.
d. operationalization.

ANSWER: c

70. Astor repeated a study to determine if she would obtain similar results to those that were found in her original study, and thereby engaged in
a. research and development.
b. logical reasoning.
c. replication.

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d. theoretical repetition.

ANSWER: c

71. Patterns of cause and effect are _____.
a. probabilistic in nature
b. inevitable in nature
c. accurate in nature
d. unobtainable in nature

ANSWER: a

72. Which of the following research is the production of knowledge based on experience or observation?
a. Theoretical
b. Hypothetical
c. Empirical
d. Conjectural

ANSWER: c

73. Which of the following terms refers to repeating a study, checking to see whether similar results are obtained each time?
a. Interrogatory
b. Replication
c. Survey
d. Anomalous

ANSWER: b

74. This type of reasoning occurs if you choose to follow the exception that proves the rule.
a. Logical
b. Demonstrated
c. Persuasive
d. Theoretical

ANSWER: a

75. When we look for patterns among specific things we observe around us, we often assume that a few similar events are evidence of a _____.
a. random pattern
b. incidental pattern
c. general pattern
d. arbitrary pattern

ANSWER: c

76. Epistemology and methodology are two scientific approaches to the discovery of
a. probability.
b. fiction.
c. emotion.

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d. reality.

ANSWER: d

77. Eyewitness testimony that turns out to be erroneous is an example of this type of observational error in personal human inquiry.

a. Inaccurate
b. Fair
c. Factual
d. Theoretical

ANSWER: a

78. The culture we are born into is made up of accepted knowledge about the world around us and is known as

a. legend.
b. myth.
c. tradition.
d. rustic.

ANSWER: c

79. When a researcher is aware that a certain pattern exists in the data, they may commit this type of error of observation when they ignore events that do not fit the pattern.

a. Organizational
b. Indiscriminate
c. Primary
d. Selective

ANSWER: d

80. Much of our knowledge is based on agreement rather than on direct experience.

a. True
b. False

ANSWER: True

81. A big part of growing up in any society is learning to accept what everyone around us

a. has witnessed.
b. knows to be true.
c. is rumored to be true.
d. has experienced firsthand.

ANSWER: b

82. Identify three errors in human inquiry. Explain each by using an example from the field of criminal justice.

ANSWER: N/A

83. Discuss the purposes of doing research. Give an example of each by using a hypothetical from the field of criminal justice.

ANSWER: N/A

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Ch01 - Crime, Criminal Justice, and Scientific Inquiry

84. Explain the difference between quantitative and qualitative data. Give an example of each from the field of criminal justice. Can both quantitative and qualitative data be used for each of the four purposes of doing research? Why or why not?
ANSWER: N/A

85. Tradition and authority are forms of personal human inquiry. Give examples of each by using scenarios from the criminal justice field.
ANSWER: N/A

86. Why is using Google Scholar a good idea when conducting Internet research?
a. It narrows down the search to publications that have been referenced in other publications.
b. It yields the most results.
c. It generates a bibliography of sources for the researcher.
d. It narrows the search to scholarly books and articles.
ANSWER: d

87. If a researcher wishes to determine how an innovative approach in policing in one district compares to other districts, they are undertaking what type of research?
a. Applied research
b. Descriptive research
c. Exploratory research
d. Explanatory research
ANSWER: c

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