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CHAPTER 2. RESEARCH METHODS AND PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT (64 items)

1. Darwin's point of view about empirical research can be accurately summarized as . . .
a. Any observation is better than no observation
b. Experimental research is preferred over correlational research
*c. Observations need to support or contradict some view if they are to be useful
d. None of the above

2. When the goal of research is to establish a cause-and-effect relationship, the only method available is . . .
a. Collecting many observations
b. Observing a correlation between the cause and the effect
c. Observing that when the cause is absent, the effect is absent
*d. None of the above

3. In psychological research, conducting well-designed experiments is often difficult because . . .
a. Human participants often behave unpredictably
*b. Eliminating plausible alternative interpretations is challenging
c. Human behavior is affected by many uncontrolled variables
d. All of the above

4. From the standpoint of experimental research, personality differences are thought of as _____.
a. noise
b. uncontrolled error variance
*c. both of the above
d. neither of the above

5. An interaction of two independent variables means . . .
*a. The effect of one variable depends on the level of a second variable
b. Both variables are important
c. These variables are interchangeable
d. Each independent variable affects a different dependent variable

6. An independent variable in an experiment may be created by . . .
a. Assigning participants to different conditions
b. Classifying them into different groups in terms of some personal characteristics
*c. Both of the above

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d. Neither of the above

7. The research tool that is used *least frequently* by researchers of personality is _____.
*a. the experiment
b. the correlation
c. the questionnaire
d. the interview

8. The research tool that is used *most frequently* by researchers of personality is _____.
a. the experiment
*b. the correlation
c. the questionnaire
d. the interview

9. A negative correlation coefficient is one that . . .
a. Fails to show the hypothesized association between two variables
b. Shows a nonlinear association between two variables
c. Shows significantly greater variance in one variable than in the other variable
*d. Shows high values of one variable are associated with low values of another variable

10. Of the following coefficients of correlation, which one shows the *strongest* association between two variables?
*a. −0.90
b. −0.25
c. +0.10
d. None of the above—not enough information is provided.

11. Correlational studies of personality want to find out if . . .
a. A manifest variable correlates with a latent variable
*b. A latent variable lies underneath the association of two manifest variables
c. A particular latent variable is the most important
d. A person's behavior varies with the situation

12. A major difficulty associated with correlational research is . . .
a. It is generally difficult to find enough participants
b. It is generally not clear how best to measure the variables of interest
c. Both of the above
*d. Neither of the above

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13. A *moderator* variable is a variable that . . .
a. Hosts discussions about variables
b. Is not as extreme as other variables
*c. Gives the answer, "It depends," to scientific questions
d. None of the above

14. _____ is the name of a procedure to find out if a set of personality traits have something in common.
a. Trait analysis
*b. Factor analysis
c. Synthetic analysis
d. All of the above

15. *Factor loadings* tell us how strongly each test correlates with _____.
a. every other test
b. itself
c. both of the above
*d. neither of the above

16. The process of finding out if the same factors identified in one study will be identified in another is called _____.
a. confirmatory factor analysis
b. cross-validation
*c. both of the above
d. neither of the above

17. Different factor analytic procedures usually arrive at the same number of basic personality traits because . . .
a. Factor analysis is a scientific procedure
b. Humans are pretty much the same all over the world
c. There are only a few possible traits that apply to all humans
*d. None of the above

18. Many investigators believe that the single most important consideration before beginning a procedure of factor analysis is the selection of _____.
*a. personality variables
b. personality tests
c. participants
d. orthogonal or oblique solution

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19. A frequent problem that occurs with factor analysis is _____.
*a. what to name the factors
b. insufficient computer time
c. both of the above
d. none of the above

20. Two latent personality variables which have been consistently identified through numerous factor analytic studies are _____.
a. agreeableness–disagreeableness and responsibility–irresponsibility
*b. introversion–extraversion and emotional stability–instability
c. open–closed and honesty–humility
d. none of the above

21. The approach to the study of personality that involves testing numerous individuals in the search for general laws and principles is called the _____.
*a. nomothetic approach
b. idiographic approach
c. scientific approach
d. lawful approach

22. The approach to the study of personality that involves a comprehensive understanding of a single individual is called the _____.
a. nomothetic approach
*b. idiographic approach
c. individualistic approach
d. uniqueness approach

23. The context of discovery refers to that aspect of the scientific process whereby . . .
a. A new scientific law is discovered
b. Prior published research is discovered to be fraudulent
c. The previously unknown context of a theory is discovered
*d. None of the above

24. The context of justification refers to that aspect of the scientific process whereby . . .
a. A scientist applies for a research grant
b. A scientist derives a novel hypothesis from a theory
c. A scientist produces a new theory to account for existing data
*d. None of the above

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25. Case studies are useful as part of the _____.
*a. context of discovery
b. context of justification
c. both of the above
d. neither of the above

26. Freud used his case histories as part of his _____.
a. context of discovery
b. context of justification
*c. both of the above
d. none of the above

27. The study of the single individual is the method of choice for personality psychologists who are interested in _____.
a. psychobiography
b. the narrative study of lives
*c. both of the above
d. none of the above

28. The difference between *biography* and *psychobiography* is . . .
a. Biography reports the lives of normal people, whereas psychobiography analyzes the lives of those who are mentally ill
b. Psychobiography is a form of biography that interprets a person's life by applying psychological theory
c. There is no difference between biography and psychobiography
*d. None of the above

29. The first recorded psychobiography was written by _____.
a. Gilgamesh
*b. Sigmund Freud
c. Rae Carlson
d. Erik Erikson

30. A procedure that asks individuals to repeatedly record their experiences in natural settings and in real time is the _____.
*a. experience sampling method
b. timely reporting procedure
c. natural behavior self-report method

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d. all of the above

31. Gordon Allport thought that the dichotomy between nomothetic and idiographic research is . . .
*a. "Too sharp; it requires a psychology divided against itself."
b. "Appropriate for this early stage in the scientific study of personality."
c. "Unfortunate; it means that personality psychology is limited as a science."
d. None of the above

32. A personality test may be given within a _____ setting.
a. legal
b. business
c. hospital
*d. all of the above

33. Another word for a test's *reliability* is _____.
a. validity
b. consistency
*c. accuracy
d. all of the above

34. A test's *alpha coefficient* or *Cronbach's alpha* refers to the test's _____.
a. initial creator
b. validity
c. external reliability
*d. internal consistency

35. If we find that a test's test-retest correlation coefficient is less than .70, we may conclude that . . .
a. Experimenter bias is a problem
*b. The test lacks adequate reliability
c. Both of the above
d. Neither of the above

36. One principle that guides the demonstration of test validity is that . . .
a. The test's face validity is not different from its content validity
b. The test's concurrent validity is measured separately from its criterion validity
c. The test's convergent validity and discriminant validity are not different

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*d. Groups that are expected to differ on the attribute being measured differ in fact on that attribute

37. The kind of validity that shows that a test covers the entire range of the meaning of the construct being measured is called the test's _____.
a. face validity
*b. content validity
c. criterion validity
d. construct validity

38. Concurrent validity and predictive validity are forms of _____.
*a. criterion validity
b. construct validity
c. discriminant validity
d. none of the above

39. If an experiment shows that average scores on a personality test change in the hypothesized direction, this outcome would supports a test's _____ validity.
a. criterion
*b. construct
c. discriminant
d. none of the above

40. If a new test demonstrates both convergent and discriminant validity, this outcome would support the test's _____ validity.
*a. construct
b. criterion
c. content
d. none of the above

41. Self-report tests are also called _____.
*a. objective tests
b. subjective tests
c. both of the above
d. neither of the above

42. The type of self-report test that is used the least often by researchers is the _____.
a. direct self-report test
b. indirect self-report test

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*c. open-ended self-report test
d. projective self-report test

43. One advantage of direct self-report tests is that . . .
a. They are easy to administer
b. They can ask about multiple aspects of personality
c. Many respondents can be tested simultaneously
*d. All of the above

44. The accuracy of responses to the questions of a self-report test may be affected by _____.
a. how personal the questions are
b. the motivation of the respondent
c. how the questions are worded
*d. all of the above

45. Acquiescent response sets are difficult to eliminate from self-report tests because . . .
a. Most respondents want to be agreeable
b. There is no way to detect how many respondents have been influenced by it
c. Both of the above
*d. Neither of the above

46. If test-takers are likely to answer items on a self-report test in terms of their social desirability rather than truthfully, this problem can be solved by . . .
*a. Asking respondents to choose between items matched on social desirability
b. Asking respondents to answer honestly
c. Asking respondents to take a lie detector test
d. All of the above

47. A self-report test that was designed to diagnose individuals who are suffering from various psychological problems is the _____.
a. California Personality Inventory (CPI)
*b. Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI)
c. Diagnostic Inventory of Personality (DIP)
d. none of the above

48. The test-retest reliability coefficients, over a span of three to six years, of a test of the five-factor model have been found to range approximately between _____.
*a. .6 and .8
b. .3 and .5

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c. .1 and .3
d. −.5 and +.5

49. Self-report tests, in general, are assumed to be reasonably valid when . . .
*a. They are taken anonymously
b. The test-takers have a personal stake in the outcome
c. They are based on sample sizes of 100 or more respondents
d. They are taken over the Internet

50. The results of any self-report test should be interpreted with caution whenever respondents . . .
a. Never change any of their initial answers
*b. Know their answers might have real-world consequences
c. Appear to be interested in the test
d. Mark their answers in crayon

51. The main difference between a self-report test and a projective test is . . .
a. The reliability of self-report tests is easier to establish
b. Self-report tests are scored objectively
c. Projective tests are designed to uncover motives at or below the level of awareness
*d. All of the above

52. The thematic apperception test, word association test, and Rorschach ink blot test are examples of _____.
a. indirect self-report tests
*b. projective tests
c. tests no longer in use
d. none of the above

53. The use of the thematic apperception test has resulted in increased understanding of the motives for _____.
a. achievement
b. intimacy and affiliation
c. power
*d. all of the above

54. Carl Jung used the word association test to infer areas of chronic emotional disturbances, which he called complexes, by observing _____.
a. idiosyncratic responses to stimulus words

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b. long time intervals between the stimulus word and the response
*c. both of the above
d. neither of the above

55. In 1921, Hermann Rorschach published the "Rorschach _____"
a. Projective Psychiatric Test
b. Ink Blot Test for Dummies
c. Leaky Pen Test
*d. None of the above

56. The psychometric properties of a projective test refer to its _____.
*a. reliability and validity
b. usability and efficiency
c. content and form
d. none of the above

57. Behavioral measures of personality are infrequently used because . . .
a. Data collection is often time-consuming
b. Data analysis is often time-consuming
*c. Both of the above
d. Neither of the above

58. A device that measures how much moisture is on our skin is the _____.
*a. galvanometer
b. electroencephalograph
c. electrocardiograph
d. electrosweatograph

59. Differences in EEG patterns have been found in individuals suffering from _____ compared to persons diagnosed with _____.
a. hysterical personality disorder; psychopathic personality disorder
*b. borderline personality disorder; major depressive disorder
c. impulse control disorder; rigidity over-control disorder
d. procrastination disorder; obsessive-compulsive disorder

60. A large scale investigation of personality and health found that . . .
a. Extraversion is a risk factor for stroke
b. Neuroticism is a risk factor for coronary heart disease (CHD)
c. Conscientiousness is associated with lower risk for both stroke and CHD

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*d. All of the above

61. Gordon Allport pointed out in 1937 that *personality* refers to a person's _____.
a. psychological characteristics
b. physical characteristics
*c. both of the above
d. neither of the above

62. Ethical issues in personality testing arise . . .
a. Whenever a test is given to anyone
*b. Whenever the test-taker reveals his or her name
c. Only in legal cases
d. None of the above

63. When a personality test is used as part of the hiring process for employment, employers in the United States have a legal obligation to show that . . .
*a. Test results are reasonably valid indicators of successful job performance
b. The test does not require sensitive information to be provided by the applicant
c. Both of the above
d. Neither of the above

64. One way to interpret your score on any personality test is to think of that score like you would _____.
a. a large oil portrait of your face
*b. a camera snapshot of your face
c. your GPS coordinates
d. none of the above

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