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Chapter 2: Quantitative, Qualitative, and Mixed Research

Learning Objectives

1. Describe the characteristics of quantitative research.
2. List and explain the different types of variables used in quantitative research.
3. Explain the difference between experimental and nonexperimental quantitative research.
4. Explain the concept of a correlation coefficient.
5. Describe the characteristics of qualitative research.
6. List and explain the differences among the different types of qualitative research introduced in this chapter.
7. Describe the characteristics of mixed research.
8. Explain when each of the three major research paradigms (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed) would be appropriate to use.

Multiple Choice

1. The variable that is presumed to cause changes in another variable is called a(n):

a. Categorical variable
b. Dependent variable
c. Independent variable
d. Intervening variable
Ans: c
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Quantitative Research: Experimental and Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

2. The variable that is presumed to be influenced by one or more independent variables is called a(n):

a. Categorical variable
b. Dependent variable
c. Independent variable
d. Intervening variable
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Quantitative Research: Experimental and Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

3. A variable that varies in type or kind is called a(n):

a. Categorical variable
b. Dependent variable
c. Independent variable
d. Intervening variable

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Ans: a
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Quantitative Research: Experimental and Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Researchers who want to design research studies that can support cause and effect conclusions most clearly are likely to carry out?

a. Nonexperimental research
b. Experimental research
c. Correlational research
d. Ethnography research
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 3
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Experimental Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

5. A researcher does a study looking at an intervention designed to increase interest in Science among Girls. She assigns 30 girls to the intervention and 30 girls to a no intervention group. In this study, she studies only girls. Girls in this study represent:

a. the independent variable
b. the dependent variable
c. a constant
d. a categorical variable
Ans: c
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Quantitative Research: Experimental and Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

6. A researcher is interested in the effects of teaching students problem-solving strategies on their abilities to solve complex mathematics problems. She randomly assigns students to either learn the strategies, or participate in a control group. She then compares their performance on a complex problem-solving task. The student performance scores on the complex problem task are the:

a. Independent variable
b. Dependent variable
c. Moderating variable
d. Mediating variable
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Application

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Answer Location: Quantitative Research: Experimental and Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

7. A researcher is interested in the effects of a YouTube video on student learning of a topic in statistics (e.g., how to calculate a correlation coefficient). He randomly assigns 50 students to one of two conditions. In one condition, the students read a traditional text. In the second condition, students view a YouTube video. He measures their performance on a post-test. In this scenario, type of instruction (text versus video) serves as the:

a. Independent variable
b. Dependent variable
c. Moderating variable
d. Mediating variable
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Quantitative Research: Experimental and Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

8. A researcher carries out a study examining the effects of a new science program on scores on a standardized science test. He chooses two seventh-grade classes to carry out the study. After the study is done, he finds that group who received the new program performed better than the control group. He also discovers, however, that the group he chose to receive the new program had better prior science achievement. In this study, the prior science achievement is:

a. An extraneous variable
b. The independent variable
c. The dependent variable
d. A moderator variable
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Quantitative Research: Experimental and Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Difficult

9. A researcher carries out a study examining the effects of a new science program on scores on a standardized science test. He chooses two seventh-grade classes to carry out the study. After the study is done, he finds that group who received the new program performed better than the control group. He also discovers, however, that the group he chose to receive the new program had better prior science achievement. In this study, the dependent variable in this study is:

a. Prior science achievement
b. The type of science program
c. Standardized science test scores
d. Seventh Grade

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Ans: c
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Quantitative Research: Experimental and Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

10. A researcher carries out a study examining the effects of a new reading program on reading achievement as measured by a standardized test. He chooses two first-grade classes to carry out the study. After the study is done, he finds that group who received the new reading program performed better than the control group. He also discovers, however, that the group he chose to receive the new program had better prior reading performance. An extraneous variable in this study is:

a. Prior reading performance
b. The type of reading program
c. Reading achievement standardized test scores
d. Grade level
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Quantitative Research: Experimental and Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Difficult

11. A mediating variable is:

a. An intervening variable
b. A variable the moderates a relationship
c. Extraneous variable
d. Interaction variable
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Quantitative Research: Experimental and Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

12. An extraneous variable is:

a. A variable that moderates a relationship
b. A dependent variable
c. A variable that intervenes between one variable and another
d. A variable that potentially competes with the independent variable in explaining the results
Ans: d
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Quantitative Research: Experimental and Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

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13. A synonym for independent variable is:

a. Manipulated variable
b. Extraneous variable
c. Outcome variable
d. Confounding variable
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Quantitative Research: Experimental and Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

14. A researcher calculates four correlation coefficients. Which of these represents the largest correlation?

a. .50
b. .10
c. .30
d. -.60
Ans: d
Learning Objective: 4
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Nonexperimental research
Difficulty Level: Medium

15. A synonym for dependent variable is:

a. Manipulated variable
b. Extraneous variable
c. Outcome variable
d. Confounding variable
Ans: c
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Quantitative Research Methods: Experimental and Nonexperimental research.
Difficulty Level: easy

16. A researcher studies achievement by children in poorly funded elementary schools. She develops a model that posits parent involvement as an important variable. She believes that parent involvement has an impact on children by increasing their motivation to do school work. Thus, in her model, greater parent involvement leads to higher student motivation, which in turn creates higher student achievement. Student motivation is what kind of variable in this study?

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a. Manipulated variable
b. Extraneous variable
c. Confounding variable
d. Mediating or intervening variable
Ans: d
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Quantitative Research Methods: Experimental and Nonexperimental research.
Difficulty Level: Hard

17. What kind of research is the inductive or exploratory scientific method most closely associated with?

a. Quantitative
b. Qualitative
c. Correlational
d. Mixed
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 5
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Characteristics of the Three Research Paradigms
Difficulty Level: Easy

18. What kind of research is the statement "behavior is law-like" most closely associated with?

a. Quantitative
b. Qualitative
c. Correlational
d. Mixed
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 1
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Characteristics of the Three Research Paradigms
Difficulty Level: Easy

19. What kind of research is "exploratory objective" most closely associated with?

a. Quantitative
b. Qualitative
c. Correlational
d. Mixed
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 5
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Characteristics of the Three Research Paradigms

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Difficulty Level: Easy

20. What kind of research is "the use of a narrow-angle lens focus" most closely associated with?

a. Quantitative
b. Qualitative
c. Correlational
d. Mixed
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 1
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Characteristics of the Three Research Paradigms
Difficulty Level: Medium

21. What kind of research is the deductive or confirmatory scientific method most closely associated with?

a. Quantitative
b. Qualitative
c. Correlational
d. Mixed
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 1
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Characteristics of the Three Research Paradigms
Difficulty Level: Easy

22. What kind of research would is most closely associated with "studying the culture of an educational context?"

a. Quantitative
b. Qualitative
c. Correlational
d. Mixed
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 5
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Characteristics of the Three Research Paradigms
Difficulty Level: Easy

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23. What kind of research is characterized by pluralism?

a. Quantitative
b. Qualitative
c. Correlational
d. Mixed
Ans: d
Learning Objective: 7
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Characteristics of the Three Research Paradigms
Difficulty Level: Easy

24. In what kind of research involves collecting multiple types of data?

a. Quantitative
b. Qualitative
c. Correlational
d. Mixed
Ans: d
Learning Objective: 7
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Characteristics of the Three Research Paradigms
Difficulty Level: Easy

25. In what kind of research does the researcher collect in-depth interview and participant observation data?

a. Quantitative
b. Qualitative
c. Correlational
d. Mixed
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 5
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Characteristics of the Three Research Paradigms
Difficulty Level: Easy

26. A research studies how teachers interact when they eat lunch together. She records the conversation and looks for themes, patterns, and meanings in the recorded conversation. What kind of research is the researcher carrying out?

a. Quantitative

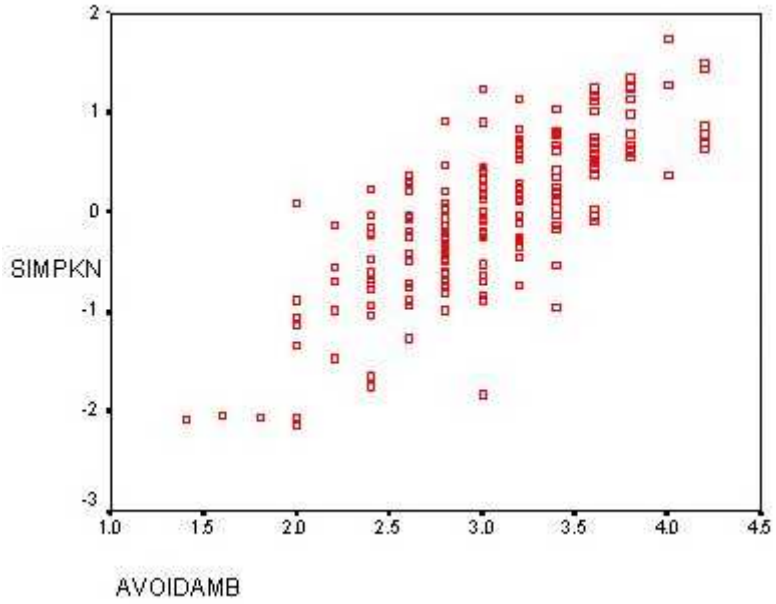
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b. Qualitative
c. Correlational
d. Mixed
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 5
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Characteristics of the Three Research Paradigms
Difficulty Level: Medium
AACSB Standard

27. A mixed method study is one that uses:

a. Two types of quantitative methods
b. Two levels of measurement: nominal and interval
c. Two types of variables: independent and dependent
d. Both qualitative and quantitative methods
Ans: d
Learning Objective: 7
Cognitive Domain: knowledge
Answer Location: Characteristics of the Three Research Paradigms
Difficulty Level: Easy
AACSB Standard:

28. The following scatter plot indicates:

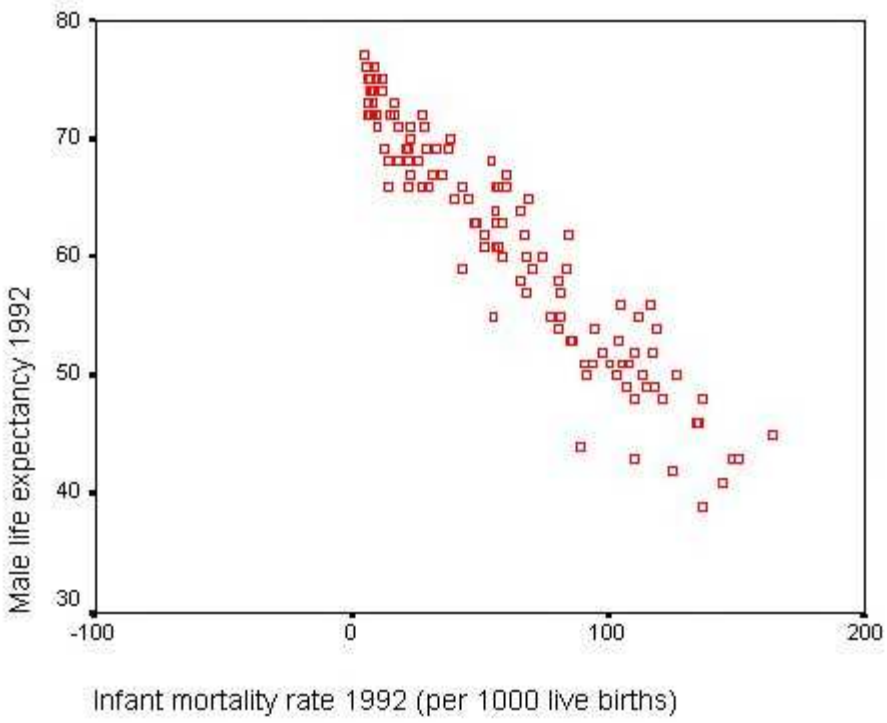


a. No relationship
b. A positive relationship
c. A negative relationship
d. A nonlinear relationship
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 4
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

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Answer Location: Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

29. The following scatter plot indicates:



a. No relationship
b. A positive relationship
c. A negative relationship
d. A nonlinear relationship
Ans: c
Learning Objective: 4
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

30. Which type of research is more likely to be exploratory?

a. Quantitative
b. Qualitative
c. Mixed
d. None of the above
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 5

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Characteristics of the Three Research Paradigms
Difficulty Level: Easy

31. What is the definition of extraneous variable?

a. A variable that competes with the independent variable in explaining the outcome of a study:
b. A variable that varies in degree or amount
c. A variable that varies in type of kind
d. A variable that is manipulated by the researcher
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: knowledge
Answer Location: Quantitative Research Methods Experimental Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

32. A researcher does a study of a curriculum on mass transit. She assigns a group of students from a rural school to receive the curriculum. She assigns a school in a major urban area to the comparison condition. She measures the results of a posttest on the curriculum. She finds that the groups score the same on the posttest. What can you conclude from this study?

a. We can say for sure that the curriculum does not improve knowledge of mass transit
b. There are no extraneous variables in this study
c. We can say for sure that the curriculum improves knowledge of mass transits
d. Rural versus Urban location is an extraneous variable that makes it hard to draw a conclusion
Ans: d
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Quantitative Research Methods Experimental Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Difficult

33. Which correlation is the strongest?

a. +.10
b. -.95
c. +.90
d. -1.00
Ans: d
Learning Objective: 5
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

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34. Which correlation is the strongest?

a. +.10
b. -.95
c. +.90
d. -.23
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 4
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

35. The correlation between test scores and grades is:

a. Positive
b. Negative
c. Perfect
d. They are not correlated
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 4
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

36. The correlation between education and income is:

a. Positive
b. Negative
c. Perfect
d. They are not correlated
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 4
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

37. The correlation between the nutrition during pregnancy and newborn birthweight is:

a. Positive
b. Negative
c. Perfect

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d. They are not correlated
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 4
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

38. _____ research occurs when the researcher manipulates the independent variable.

a. Nonexperimental research
b. Experimental research
c. Grounded theory research
d. Historical research
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 3
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Experimental Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

39. Which of the following can best be described as a categorical variable?

a. Annual income
b. Grade point average
c. Height
d. Gender
Ans: d
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Quantitative Research Methods: Experimental and Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

40. Experimental research is a _____ research method.

a. quantitative
b. qualitative
c. mixed
d. ethnographic
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 8
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Experimental Research
Difficulty Level:

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41. Ethnography is a _____ research method.

a. quantitative
b. qualitative
c. mixed
d. multivariate
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 8
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Qualitative Research Methods: Ethnography
Difficulty Level: Easy

42. The proposition that one cannot mix quantitative and qualitative research is known as which of the following?

a. Incompatibility Thesis
b. Pragmatism
c. Determinism
d. Linguistic-relativity hypothesis
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 8
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: (intro to chapter before any subheaders)
Difficulty Level: Easy

43. The philosophical position that "what works is what is important or valid" is known as which of the following?

a. Determinism
b. Verstehen
c. Pragmatism
d. Workability thesis
Ans: c
Learning Objective: 8
Cognitive Domain: knowledge
Answer Location: Just above characteristics of the three research paradigms
Difficulty Level: Easy

44. Which type of research relies more on numerical data?

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a. Quantitative
b. Qualitative
c. Phenomenology
d. Grounded theory
Ans: a
Learning Objective:
Cognitive Domain:
Answer Location:
Difficulty Level:

45. Which type of research relies more on non-numerical data (e.g., words and images)?

a. Quantitative
b. Qualitative
c. Correlational
d. Mixed
Ans: b
Learning Objective:
Cognitive Domain:
Answer Location:
Difficulty Level:

46. The idea that people see and understand the world through the lens of their local language is called which of the following?

a. Verstehen
b. Singular Perspective theory
c. Relative Culture theory
d. Linguistic-relativity hypothesis
Ans: d
Learning Objective: 5
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: (Intro to chapter before sub-header Characteristics of the Three Research Paradigms)
Difficulty Level: Easy

47. Christianity, Buddhism, and Islam would be three possible responses for a variable measuring religion identification. What kind of variable would this be?

a. Quantitative variable
b. Mixed variable
c. Categorical variable

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d. Constant variable
Ans: c
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Quantitative and Research Methods: Experimental and Nonexperimental Methods
Difficulty Level: Medium

48. Which of the following is a variable that comes in between two other variables and helps show the process by which one variable affects another variable?

a. Independent Variable
b. Dependent Variable
c. Mediating Variable
d. Moderating Variable
Ans: c
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Quantitative and Research Methods: Experimental and Nonexperimental Methods
Difficulty Level: Medium

49. A variable that delineates how a relationship of interest changes under different conditions or circumstances is which of the following?

a. Independent Variable
b. Dependent Variable
c. Mediating Variable
d. Moderating Variable
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Quantitative and Research Methods: Experimental and Nonexperimental Methods
Difficulty Level: Medium

50. A researcher examines the impact of exposure to engineering design problems on interest in becoming an engineer. Interest in becoming an engineer is what kind of variable?

a. Independent Variable

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b. Dependent Variable
c. Mediating Variable
d. Moderating variable
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Quantitative and Research Methods: Experimental and Nonexperimental Methods
Difficulty Level: Medium

51. Which of the following examples illustrates experimental research?

a. A researcher studies the profiles of National Merit Scholars to determine what factors are associated with their success
b. A researcher does a study where he manipulates the types of memory strategies students are taught and then measures their recall
c. A researcher does a study where he examines the correlation between mathematics anxiety and time to solve a mathematics story problem set
d. A researcher does a study where she carries out a survey that quantifies student beliefs about mathematics and follows that study up with a series of qualitative interviews with students
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 3
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Experimental Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

52. Why is it important to control extraneous variables (to the best extent possible)?

a. An uncontrolled extraneous variable (variable "X") can cause doubt as to whether changes in one variable (variable "A") cause changes in another variable (variable "B")
b. An uncontrolled extraneous variable (variable "X") can act as an alternative explanation for the claim that changes in one variable (variable "A") cause changes in another variable (variable "B")
c. Uncontrolled extraneous variables rarely have an impact on empirical research and therefore it is not important to carefully control them most of the time
d. Both a and b are correct
Ans: d
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Experimental Research
Difficulty Level: Difficult

53. Which of the following is an example of nonexperimental research?

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a. A researcher manipulates how students are taught statistic and then looks at the performance differences on a posttest
b. A researcher manipulates how students are taught to solve word problems and compares math performance on a test
c. A researcher looks at the correlation between reading speed and reading comprehension
d. A researcher assigns students with ADHD to one of two drug treatment groups and examines the impact of the drug conditions on ADHD symptoms
Ans: c
Learning Objective: 8
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Nonexperimental research
Difficulty Level: Medium

54. A form of qualitative research that focuses on understanding and describing the culture of a group of people is known as ___.

a. Historical research
b. Grounded Theory
c. Case Study research
d. Ethnography
Ans: d
Learning Objective: 6
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Qualitative Research Methods: Ethnography
Difficulty Level: Easy

55. A form of qualitative research that focuses on generating a theory is known as ___.

a. Historical research
b. Grounded Theory
c. Case Study
d. Ethnography
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 6
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Qualitative Research Methods: Grounded Theory
Difficulty Level: Easy

56. Why would we mix quantitative and qualitative approaches in mixed research?

a. To obtain a design with complementary strengths
b. To test moderating variables
c. To include extraneous variables
d. To test mediating variables

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Ans: d
Learning Objective: 7
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: The Advantages of Mixed Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

57. A group of researchers conducted a study of college freshmen to try to understand what their experience of their first year in college was like. This would be an example of which type of research?

a. Ethnography
b. Culture
c. Phenomenology
d. Correlation
Ans: c
Learning Objective: 8
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Characteristics of the Three Research Paradigms
Difficulty Level: Medium

58. An example of a mixed methods research study would be:

a. Researchers conducting in-depth interviews with a limited number of participants, then creating a structured questionnaire based on those interviews, and then having a larger sample of research participants fill out the questionnaire
b. Researchers giving a group of participants a quantitative questionnaire to fill out; analyzing the answers; then conducting a follow-up quantitative survey of a larger group
c. Researchers conducting an in-depth case study of homeless people who live near a park in a large city
d. Researchers developing a casual-comparative research method to explain why a group of students have begun bullying other students in their dorms
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 8
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Mixed Research (or Mixed Methods Research)
Difficulty Level: Medium

59. Which of the following examples illustrates probabilistic cause?

a. Students who do not study tend to perform poorly in school
b. Walker backed his car into Henry's Car and the impact damaged the radiator
c. John did not show up for the final exam and thereby received a zero
d. Every time Sarah spoke out in class she was sent to timeout
Ans: a

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Learning Objective: 1
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Characteristics of the Three Research Paradigms
Difficulty Level: Difficult

60. The method of empathetic understanding of others' viewpoints, meanings, intention, and cultural beliefs is known as:

a. Ethnography
b. Correlational analysis
c. Verstehen
d. Causal comparative
Ans: c
Learning Objective: 5
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Characteristics of the Three Research Paradigms
Difficulty Level: Easy

61. An intervention studied in an experiment is called a:

a. manipulation
b. correlate
c. constant
d. dependent variable
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 3
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Experimental Research
Difficulty Level: Easy

62. A correlation coefficient indicates:

a. only quantitative information about a relationship between variables
b. only qualitative information about a relationship between variables
c. the relationship between the independent and dependent variables
d. the strength and direction of the relationship between variables
Ans: d
Learning Objective: 4
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

63. The form of qualitative research that focuses on understanding people's experiences through the use of stories is:

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a. Narrative inquiry
b. Case study research
c. Phenomenology
d. Historical research
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 6
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Qualitative Research: Narrative Inquiry
Difficulty Level: Easy

64. An effective way to control for extraneous variables is to:

a. measure confounding variables
b. measure the extraneous variables
c. random assignment of participants to groups
d. Ignore extraneous variables
Ans: c
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Experimental Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

True/False:

1. When possible, some experts believe that it is best to mix quantitative and qualitative methods in a single research study.

a. True
b. False
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 8
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: The Advantages of Mixed Research
Difficulty Level:

2. Qualitative research is especially interested in the idea of verstehen.

a. True
b. False
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 5
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Characteristics of the Three Research Paradigms
Difficulty Level: Easy

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3. The main reason to control for extraneous variables is that they clutter a research study with too many variables to effectively work with.

a. True
b. False
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 2
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Experimental Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

4. Grounded theory research focuses on further testing of a theory after the researcher has completed preliminary experiments.

a. True
b. False
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 6
6Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Qualitative Research Methods: Grounded Theory
Difficulty Level:

5. By combining two or more research methods in a mixed methods research study, you increase the strength of your study because you make it less likely you will miss something or make a mistake.

a. True
b. False
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 7
Cognitive Domain: Mixed Research: The Advantages of Mixed Research
Answer Location:
Difficulty Level:

6. In a holistic description, the researcher simply describes the individuals as they go about their activities.

a. True
b. False
Ans: b

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Learning Objective: 6
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Qualitative Research Methods: Ethnography
Difficulty Level: Easy

7. The views about research that are held by a group of researchers and included assumptions, concepts, values, and practices are known as research paradigm.

a. True
b. False
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 8
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Characteristics of the Three Research Paradigms
Difficulty Level: Easy

8. Mixed research concerns itself with assessing subjective, intersubjective, and objective information.

a. True
b. False
Ans: a
Learning Objective: 7
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Mixed Methods
Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Causal-comparative research is used to describe experimental research with a categorical independent variable.

a. True
b. False
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 3
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Case study research only focuses on a detailed account of one case.

a. True
b. False
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 6

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Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Qualitative Research methods: Case Study Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

11. A correlation of -.70 is a small correlation.

a. True
b. False
Ans: b
Learning Objective: 4
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Nonexperimental Research
Difficulty Level: Medium

Essay Questions

1. Explain the difference between mediating and moderating variables in quantitative research. Provide examples of situations where variables play the role of mediators or moderators.

   Learning Objective: 2
   Cognitive Domain: Analysis/Application
   Answer Location: Quantitative Research: Experimental and Nonexperimental Research
   Difficulty Level: Medium

   Brief Answer Outline
   A response to this question would emphasize how mediating variables are variables that other variables act through, whereas moderating variables are ones that change the relationship between variables. There are many possible mediating variable examples. For instance, one could discuss how the cognitive ability of a parent might lead to that parent providing a more enriched home environment for their children which in turn leads better school achievement by children. In this case, the impact of parental cognitive ability is mediated by the "rich environment." An example of moderation might involve showing how the impact of a variable changes as you change levels of a second variable. For example, the impact of a program to improve student motivation might vary depending upon personality type. For example, maybe the program works for extroverts, but not introverts.

2. Describe the characteristics of experimental research that make it more advantageous for drawing causal conclusions
   Learning Objective: 2
   Cognitive Domain: Analysis/Application
   Answer Location: Quantitative Research: Experimental and Nonexperimental Research
   Difficulty Level: Medium

   Brief Answer Outline

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A correct answer here would emphasize methods for assigning participants to groups randomly and controlling variables so that the impact of extraneous variables could be controlled. Thus, a good answer should mention manipulation of variables, random assignment, and ruling out of extraneous variables.

3. Make up an example of study that makes use of mixed methods. Describe the qualitative and quantitative part of the study and describe why it is advantageous to carry out the study using mixed methods.

   Learning Objective: 8
   Cognitive Domain: Analysis/Application
   Answer Location: Mixed Methods Research
   Difficulty Level: Medium

   Brief Answer Outline:

   There are a variety of potentially valid responses here. The main goal is that in the answer the student discusses both how quantitative and qualitative data will be collected, as well as how the two will be mixed together.

4. Compare and contrast the five different approaches to qualitative research. Provide examples of situations where each approach seems appropriate.

   Learning Objective: 6
   Cognitive Domain: Analysis/Application
   Answer Location: Qualitative Research Methods
   Difficulty Level: Medium

   Brief Answer Outline:
   A well thought out answer to this question will define the five different approaches: Phenomenology, Case Study, Ethnography, Grounded Theory, and Narrative Inquiry. In addition, an example of each will be provided that gives a rationale for why the examples discussed fit with the research methods described.

5. Describe the three key problems with basic correlational and causal comparative research. Be sure to provide examples of how these flaws manifest themselves.

   Learning Objective: 4
   Cognitive Domain: Analysis/Application
   Answer Location: Nonexperimental Research
   Difficulty Level: Medium

   Brief Answer Outline:
   A well thought out answer to this question will mention the lack of manipulation of the variable, difficulties in determining temporal order of variables, and other reasons for the

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relation. Here is one example that addresses each of these. A test developer comes up with a test of independent living skills for adolescents. She does a study and finds that a group of students in juvenile detention score lower on independent living skills than non-incarcerated students. The researcher cannot make the claim that the lack of independent living skills led the students to get into trouble with the law. However, this claim cannot be made because the variable was not manipulated (no one systematically trained one group or the other in independent living skills. Further, it may be that being incarcerated is what led to lower independent living skills in these adolescents. We cannot determine what was first from a cross-sectional look. Finally, there are plenty of other variables that might offer other explanations for why students ended up incarcerated (for example, poor parenting). Any example or examples that include the three problems and explain how they create problems will be appropriate.

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