Introduction to Criminology Theories Methods and Criminal Behavior 9th edition Hagan Test Bank

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1. The primary source of official crime statistics in the United States is the annual _____ published by the FBI.

a. NIBRS report
b. NCVS
*c. UCR
d. self-report survey

2. The crime _____ is the actual number of reported crimes standardized by some unit of the population.

a. statistic
b. degree
c. ratio
*d. rate

3. Which of the following is commonly used to refer to the number of crimes that are committed, but which never come to official attention?

a. The hidden crime rate
*b. The dark figure of crime
c. Unknown deviance
d. The indexed crimes

4. Which of the following sources of data includes detailed information on criminal incidents, including location, time, and presence of weapon?

a. UCR
b. NCVS
*c. NIBRS
d. DSM-V

5. A criminologist wants to gain an in-depth understanding of the subculture of a street gang in a particular city. Which of the following methods would be the most appropriate method for obtaining such an understanding?

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a. Using existing sources of official data
b. Distributing self-report surveys
c. Running an experiment under laboratory conditions
*d. Engaging in an ethnography

6. While there is not complete consensus, in defining who should be considered "criminal," criminologists most strongly agree that the term should be used for which of the following?

a. Those who have been convicted of a crime
b. Those who have committed deviant acts before the age of 12
c. Those who are of a "criminal mind"
*d. Long-term recidivists who have repeatedly been found guilty

7. Which of the following refers to "consistency and/or stability of measurement"?

a. Validity
*b. Reliability
c. Triangulation
d. Unobtrusiveness

8. A criminologist wants to learn about the rate of drug use among adolescents. To do this, the criminologist would be best-served by referencing which of the following sources?

a. UCR
b. NCVS
*c. Self-report surveys
d. Case studies

9. A criminologist wants to gain an in-depth understanding of the socialization process of a state police academy. Which of the following methods would be the most appropriate method for obtaining such an understanding?

a. Using existing sources of official data
b. Distributing self-report surveys
c. Running an experiment under laboratory conditions
*d. Engaging in participant observation

10. Which of the following is true of participant observation in the field of criminology?

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a. The researcher should carefully conceal his or her real identity and pretend to be part of the group being studied.
b. Tape recorders should be used in the field to ensure accuracy of data.
*c. Participant observation is a valuable methodology for studying groups that have historically been little-understood.
d. Participant observation is a good way of obtaining quantitative data on various criminal phenomena.

11. A criminologist decides to study the way in which violent crime is portrayed in newspaper headlines. This type of research is known as:

a. Media survey
*b. Content analysis
c. Simulation
d. Secondary analysis

12. A criminologist decides to compile what is currently known about domestic violence; the criminologist does this by analyzing the data collected in a number of previous studies on the topic. This type of research is known as:

a. Content analysis
b. Media survey
c. Participant observation
*d. Secondary analysis

13. A criminologist decides to study marijuana use among college students. To do this, the criminologist conducts a survey of the students, reviews police records of drug offenses near the campus, and engages in participant observation. Overall, this approach is representative of which of the following?

a. Simulation
b. Secondary analysis
*c. Triangulation
d. Unobtrusive measures

14. Which of the following is an index offense on the Uniform Crime Report?

*a. Arson
b. Embezzlement
c. Public drunkenness
d. Traffic violations

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15. The "crime index" reflects which of the following?

a. The nation's murder rate
*b. Part I offenses on the UCR
c. Part II offenses on the UCR
d. The rate of violent victimizations reported on the NCVS

16. Which of the following agencies is responsible for the publication of the UCR?

a. Central Intelligence Agency
*b. Federal Bureau of Investigation
c. Secret Service
d. U.S. Marshalls

17. A fanatical adherence to a particular research method, often at the expense of a concern for substance, is known as which of the following?

*a. Methodological narcissism
b. Research incoherence
c. Telescopic visioning
d. Triangulation

18. The use of pretests and posttests applies to which of the following research methodologies?

a. Ethnography
*b. Experimentation
c. Participant observation
d. Secondary analysis

19. As an independent field, criminology has:

a. Largely disregarded the issue of ethics in research
*b. Long recognized the ethical codes of its parent disciplines, but only recently begun to adopt its own ethical guidelines
c. Long relied upon its own code of ethics, compiled by the American Society of Criminology since the early 1900s
d. Long relied upon its own code of ethics, compiled by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences since the early 1900s

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20. If a criminologist conducts a study of an issue that he or she feels strongly about, there may be issues with the researcher remaining:
a. Reliable
b. Triangulated
*c. Objective
d. Operationalized

21. When conducting research with human participants, criminologists must develop a system of mutual trust and obligation between the researcher and subject. This is referred to as:
a. Reliability
b. Objectivity
c. Validity
*d. Reciprocity

22. If participants in an experiment have an equal probability of being assigned to the experimental group or the control group, this is accomplished through:
a. Methodological narcissim
*b. Random Assignment
c. Pretests
d. Posttests

23. The Department of Justice evaluates "what works" in criminology and criminal justice on the assumption that it makes little sense to continue to invest in programs that do not work. This describes:
a. Scared Straight
b. Uniform Crime Report
*c. Evidence-based research
d. Hands-on research

24. A criminologist visits the Library of Congress to analyze letters and political correspondence of Martin Luther King, Jr. This research method is which of the following?
*a. Life history
b. Simulation
c. Trace Analysis
d. Simple observation

25. A criminologist secretly studies groups by temporarily deceiving them as to his or her real purpose. This describes which research method?
a. Participant observtion
*b. Disguised observation
c. Ethnography
d. Simulation

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26. True or False? Criminologists agree that quantitative research is a means of inquiry superior to qualitative methods.

a. True
*b. False

27. True or False? The majority of crimes committed in the United States are not "index offenses."

*a. True
b. False

28. True or False? The "dark figure of crime" refers specifically to the body of organized crime syndicates that operate in the United States.

a. True
*b. False

29. True or False? Triangulation involves the use of multiple methods to measure a given phenomenon.

*a. True
b. False

30. True or False? Participant observation is the best method for obtaining quantitative data regarding crime.

a. True
*b. False

31. True or False? The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) was first implemented in the 1930s.

a. True
*b. False

32. True or False? In the context of research methods, "reliability" refers to the accuracy of measurement.

a. True

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*b. False

33. True or False? Researchers may misuse their positions as fraudulent pretext for gathering information as long as they fully report their findings.

a. True
*b. False

34. True or False? Most crimes committed are index crimes.

a. True
*b. False

35. True or False? Liquor law offenses are classified as Part I index offenses on the UCR.

a. True
*b. False

36. Criminologists prefer using ethnography as a research method because it is not as time consuming as some of the other methods.

a. True
*b. False

37. Criminology's subject matter is concerned with human behavior but not attitudes.

a. True
*b. False

38. Information on the volume of Part I and II offenses known to law enforcement, those cleared by arrest exceptional means, and the number of persons arrested is reported to the FBI monthly.

a. True
*b. False

39. Qualitative techniques involve more engagement with field and observational strategies and less direct means of obtaining information.

*a. True
b. False

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40. When conducting an experiment, the control group receives the treatment and the experimental group does not.

a. True
*b. False

41. Briefly describe Stanley Milgram's *Obedience to Authority* study.

Correct Answer:
Milgram wanted to discover how "normal" people come to commit monstrous acts. Volunteers were recruited and paid to act as "teachers" while fake subjects acted as "learners." The teachers were deceived into believing that each time they threw a lever on a shock apparatus, they were administering higher levels of shock to the pupils. The teachers were willing to administer what they believed were painful shocks despite cries to sstop from the subjects, when assured by the presence of scientific authorities.

42. Identify the three ways that researchers obtain information regarding crime.

Correct Answer:
Examples: Surveys; official police records; participant observation; secondary analysis; experiments

43. What does "UCR" stand for?

Correct Answer:
Uniform Crime Report

44. Identify one weakness of victimization surveys.

Correct Answer:
Possibilities: Need for large sample sizes; false or mistaken reports; memory failure; telescoping of events; sampling bias; over-reporting

45. Identify one advantage that NIBRS has over the UCR as a source of crime data.

Correct Answer:
Examples: It will collect more information on each incident; it will distinguish attempted from completed offenses

46. Provide a brief description of "participant observation" as a research method.

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Correct Answer:
The researcher studies or observes a group through varying degrees of participation in the activities of that group.

47. Define "reliability" as it relates to research.

Correct Answer:
The consistency and/or stability of measurement

48. Identify one weakness of self-report surveys.

Correct Answer:
Examples: Inaccurate responses; typical reliance on "captive" audiences

49. Discuss how participant observation differs from ethnography.

Correct Answer:
While both methods involve a researcher participating in activities with the research subjects, ethnography involves the researcher becoming immersed in the culture being studied while participant observers do not.

50. Identify the two categories of Part I Index Crimes.

Correct Answer:
Part I violent crimes and Part I property crimes

51. Discuss the relative strengths and weaknesses of the UCR and NCVS in assessing the number of rapes that occur in the United States in a given year. Which do you feel is a stronger tool for this purpose? Support your answer.

Correct Answer:
UCR-strength: because rape is a more serious and violent crime it is more likely to be reported, has different definitions of rape such as forcible rape and sex offenses;
weakness: not all crime committed is reported, not all reported crimes are recorded by the police, some agencies may purposely conceal recorded crimes, hierarchy rule makes is harder to make certain all rapes are recorded

52. As a criminologist, you are tasked with studying the criminal activities of gang members in a particular community through participant observation. Identify relevant ethical concerns with this study. How would these concerns shape your research project?

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Correct Answer:
Typically, human subjects have the right to full disclosure of the purposes of the research, but with participant observation you cannot tell the participants you are studying them; subjects also have the right to confidentiality, but this is sometimes hard to ensure with this type of observation; research should avoid privacy invasion, but in order to get at some topics privacy must be invaded; it is impossible to obtain informed consent in this type of situation because the subjects cannot know you are studying them.

53. Explain the "crime index." Cover the uses of the crime index, as well as its weaknesses as an indicator of crime rates.

Correct Answer:
The UCR “crime index” from which the crime rate is calculated consists of Part I crimes: murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson; Part I crimes consist of the index crimes, major felonies that are believed to be serious, to occur frequently, and to have a greater likelihood of being reported to the police. In 2004, the FBI decided to stop reporting the crime index and to report a violent crime index and property crime index instead. An advisory board had felt that the crime index had been distorted by including the category of larceny-theft. A principal difficulty with the UCR crime rate as an index of crime in the United States is that it is an unweighted index. That is, each crime, whether murder or bicycle theft, is added into the total index with no weight given to the relative seriousness of the offense. Thus, no monetary or psychological value is assigned. For instance, a city with 100 burglaries per 100,000 population and one with 100 homicides per 100,000 population would have the same crime rate.

54. As a criminologist, you are asked to assess the effectiveness of an after-school program that had been designed to reduce crime rates among youth. Describe in detail at least three ways that you could go about studying the effectiveness of this program, applying concepts that you have learned in this course.

Correct Answer:
First, observation of the program participants requires the researcher to keep participation with subjects to a minimum while carefully recording their activities. Second, experiments conduct a pre- and posttest to evaluate changes that occur from a person participating in the program. Area students would be randomly assigned to an experimental group (the program) or a control group (no program). Third, surveys of the program participants would help to uncover whether any changes have occurred in attitudes that are at risk for offending.

55. Define validity, reliability, and triangulation, and explain why each of these elements is important in conducting research.

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Correct Answer:
Validity concerns accuracy of measurement. It asks the questions, “Does my measuring instrument in fact measure what it claims to measure?” or “Is it a true and accurate measure of the subject in question?” **Reliability**, on the other hand, involves the consistency and/or stability of measurement. If repeated measures were made of the same entity, would stable and uniform measures ensue? Obviously, validity is a more crucial issue than reliability; if a measurement is inaccurate, the consistency of inaccuracy becomes a moot question. **Triangulation** involves the use of multiple methods in measuring the same entity. It is similar to the notion of corroborating evidence in law; if different measures of the same concept produce convergence or similar results, then we have greater confidence in the validity of an observation or finding.

56. The problem of inadequate methods in criminology arises not because of the inherent shortcomings of a particular method, but because a given method is used alone. _____ inolves the use of multiple methods in measuring the same entity.

Correct Answer:
Triangulation

57. Why is it said that UCR data "represents only a portion of the true crime rate of a community"?

Correct Answer:
Dark figure of crime, UCR data is only REPORTED crime

58. What ethical issues are associated with the Zimbardo Prison Study?

Correct Answer:
The subjects were humiliated and mentally harmed by the experimentation, Zimbardo played too close a role in the experimentation being both the primary researcher and the warden of the simulated prison, the subjects were made to think they could not leave, participants became carried away with their roles and not stopped when it became detrimental

59. Journalists are frequently covering the same events that criminologists are studying. Describe how their roles differ.

Correct Answer:
Journalists are a bit more interested in arousing public opinion and entertaining. Criminologists take a more scientific view of the subject matter and emphasize theory and methods as they contribute to the development of a discipline.

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60. Name and describe the four types of unobtrusive measures discussed.

Correct Answer:
Content analysis refers to the systematic classification and study of the content of mass media, newspapers, magazines etc.Observation requires the researcher to keep participantion with subjects to a minimum while carefully recording their activities. Physical trace analysis involves studying deposits, accretion of matter, and other remains of human activity. Simulation entails research strategies that attempt to mimic or imitate a more complex social reality.

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