Understanding the Social World Research Methods for the 21st Century 2nd edition Schutt Test Bank

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Test Bank

Chapter 1: Science, Society, and Social Research

Multiple Choice

1. Social scientists investigate individuals, societies, and _____.

a. philosophies

b. conceptualizations

c. social processes

d. triangulation

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.2: Define social science and identify its limitations.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Avoiding Errors in Reasoning About the Social World

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Which of the following is a common error in reasoning?

a. resistance to change

b. systematic investigation

c. deductive reasoning

d. constructivism

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Reevaluating

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Which paradigm emphasizes the importance of exploring and representing the ways in which different stakeholders in a social setting construct their beliefs?

Understanding the Social World Research Methods for the 21st Century 2nd edition Schutt Test Bank

a. constructivism

b. evaluation

c. positivism

d. triangulation

Ans: A
Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain the difference between the orientations in the following two pairs: quantitative/qualitative; positivist/constructivist.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Quantitative and/or Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. Social research can be descriptive, exploratory, explanatory, or _____.

a. evaluative

b. qualitative

c. quantitative

d. selective

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.3: Identify the four types of social research.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Types of Social Research

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. A study that includes asking questions that require a written response is known as a(n) _____.

a. interview

b. survey

c. observation

d. exploration

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.3: Identify the four types of social research.

Understanding the Social World Research Methods for the 21st Century 2nd edition Schutt Test Bank

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Types of Social Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. Constructivists believe reality is _____.

a. symbolic

b. qualitatively interactive

c. understood through observation

d. socially constructed

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain the difference between the orientations in the following two pairs: quantitative/qualitative; positivist/constructivist.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Quantitative and/or Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. Research that seeks to determine the effects of programs, policies, or other efforts to affect social patterns is called _____.

a. evaluation research

b. differing perspectives

c. exploration research

d. interactive phenomena

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.3: Identify the four types of social research.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Evaluation Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. _____ research seeks to find out how people get along in a specific setting and what meanings they give to their actions.

Understanding the Social World Research Methods for the 21st Century 2nd edition Schutt Test Bank

a. Exploratory

b. Explanatory

c. Observation

d. Deductive

Ans: A

Learning Objective:1.3: Identify the four types of social research.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Exploratory Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. Social phenomena are defined in _____ research.

a. deductive

b. inductive

c. descriptive

d. alternative

Ans: C

Learning Objective:1.3: Identify the four types of social research.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Descriptive Research

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. Illogical reasoning occurs when we prematurely jump to conclusions or argue on the basis of _____.

a. major alternatives

b. constructivism

c. invalid assumptions

d. selective observations

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning.

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Reasoning

Difficulty Level: Easy

11. _____ occurs when we conclude, without justification, that what is true for some cases is true for all cases.

a. Deductive reasoning

b. Overgeneralization

c. Triangulation

d. Positivism

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Generalizing

Difficulty Level: Medium

12. An observation based on faulty perceptions of empirical reality is called _____ observation.

a. qualitative

b. quantitative

c. faulty

d. inaccurate

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Observing

Difficulty Level: Easy

13. _____ is choosing to look only at things that are in line with our preferences or beliefs.

a. Intensive observation

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b. Selective observation

c. Selective reasoning

d. Overgeneralization

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Observing

Difficulty Level: Easy

14. The use of multiple methods to study one research question is known as _____.

a. sampling

b. triangulation

c. positivism

d. descriptive research

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.3: Identify the four types of social research.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Quantitative and/or Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Easy

15. Using _____ allows one to make connections between different things that they have observed.

a. reasoning

b. reevaluating

c. overgeneralization

d. faulty observation

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Understanding the Social World Research Methods for the 21st Century 2nd edition Schutt Test Bank

Answer Location: Avoiding Errors in Reasoning About the Social World

Difficulty Level: Medium

16. _____ may help us draw understanding from what we have observed in other times or places.

a. Generalizing

b. Observation

c. Reasoning

d. Reevaluating

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Generalizing

Difficulty Level: Medium

17. Positivism refers to which of the following beliefs?

a. There is a reality, which follows general laws, and it can be understood through observation.

b. Quantitative data, collected using approved methodology, is the best way to learn about the social world.

c. A researcher can get a better picture of social reality if they utilize multiple methods to study one research question.

d. Embracing social change and empowering social scientists to study the social world is beneficial to society.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain the difference between the orientations in the following two pairs: quantitative/qualitative; positivist/constructivist.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Quantitative and/or Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Medium

18. The reluctance to reevaluate our ideas in light of new information is referred to as _____.

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a. participant observation

b. invalid reasoning

c. resistance to change

d. quantitative reasoning

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Reevaluating

Difficulty Level: Easy

19. When we jump to conclusions or argue on the basis of invalid assumptions, we are using _____.

a. inaccurate observation

b. inductive reasoning

c. selective observation

d. illogical reasoning

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Reasoning

Difficulty Level: Easy

20. Excessive devotion to tradition is an example of _____.

a. uncritical agreement

b. resistance to change

c. ego-based commitment

d. illogical reasoning

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning.

Understanding the Social World Research Methods for the 21st Century 2nd edition Schutt Test Bank

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Reevaluating

Difficulty Level: Medium

21. _____ is a methodology based on questioning belief in an external reality.

a. Triangulation

b. Determinism

c. Constructivism

d. Positivism

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain the difference between the orientations in the following two pairs: quantitative/qualitative; positivist/constructivist.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Quantitative and/or Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Medium

22. _____ relies on logical and systematic methods to answer questions.

a. Research methods

b. The social world

c. Paradigms

d. Science

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.2: Define Social Science and identify its limitations.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Avoiding Errors in Reasoning About the Social World

Difficulty Level: Easy

23. If a study relies upon numerical data, it likely utilizes _____ methods.

a. quantitative

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b. inductive

c. qualitative

d. deductive

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain the difference between the orientations in the following two pairs: quantitative/qualitative; positivist/constructivist.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Quantitative and/or Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Medium

24. After entering her classroom, Dr. Phillips glances around to assess class attendance. It is likely she has made a(n) _____.

a. inaccurate observation

b. selective observation

c. overgeneralization

d. illogical observation

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Observing

Difficulty Level: Medium

25. We may reduce the likelihood of overgeneralization by using _____ procedures.

a. systematic

b. resistance

c. inaccurate

d. selective

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.2: Define social science and identify its limitations.

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Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Generalizing

Difficulty Level: Hard

26. Methods such as participant observation, interviewing, and focus groups are examples of which type of research?

a. inductive

b. quantitative

c. exploratory

d. qualitative

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain the difference between the orientations in the following two pairs: quantitative/qualitative; positivist/constructivist.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Qualitative and/or Quantitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Hard

27. Social scientific research may be qualitative or _____.

a. exploratory

b. quantitative

c. personal

d. selective

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain the difference between the orientations in the following two pairs: quantitative/qualitative; positivist/constructivist.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Quantitative and/or Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Easy

28. Defining and describing social _____ is part of descriptive research.

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a. norms

b. values

c. sciences

d. phenomena

Ans: D

Learning Objective:1.3: Identify the four types of social research.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Types of Social Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

29. Methods of investigation should utilize _____ procedures.

a. systematic

b. observational

c. personal

d. selective

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.2: Define Social Science and identify its limitations.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Avoiding Errors in Reasoning About the Social World

Difficulty Level: Medium

30. Positivism asserts that reality can be understood through _____.

a. human interaction

b. social structure

c. observation

d. personal interpretation

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain the difference between the orientations in the following two pairs: quantitative/qualitative; positivist/constructivist.

Understanding the Social World Research Methods for the 21st Century 2nd edition Schutt Test Bank

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Quantitative and/or Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Medium

31. Margaret noticed that her classmates were sleeping during the lecture. She concluded that most students at her university are poorly motivated to learn. Margaret's assessment is an example of _____.

a. an oversimplification

b. an observation

c. positivism

d. an overgeneralization

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.2: Define social science and identify its limitations.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Avoiding Errors in Reasoning About the Social World

Difficulty Level: Medium

32. Ricardo is studying the relationship between school success and nutrition. He is incorporating a variety of research methodologies in his investigation. Ricardo's work exemplifies _____.

a. positivism

b. constructivism

c. triangulation

d. overgeneralization

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.3: Identify the four types of social research.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Quantitative and/or Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Medium

Understanding the Social World Research Methods for the 21st Century 2nd edition Schutt Test Bank

33. Lucia administers a not for profit organization which focuses on feeding the hungry. She is interested in determining and describing benefits of her program to the local community. Which type of research would be most beneficial towards her aim?

a. explanatory

b. exploratory

c. descriptive

d. evaluation

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.3: Identify the four types of social research.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Evaluation Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

34. When an issue is first being explored the research is typically _____.

a. descriptive

b. evaluative

c. exploratory

d. quantitative

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.3: Identify the four types of social research.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Descriptive Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

35. Research which focuses on explaining cause and effect related to social phenomenon is typically _____ research.

a. exploratory

b. explanatory

c. descriptive

d. solitary

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Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.3: Identify the four types of social research.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Exploratory Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

36. What is/are the hallmark of sociological research?

a. adherence to scientific methods

b. personal assumptions and observations

c. experiments

d. deference to authority

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.2: Define Social Science and identify its limitations.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Value of Social Research | Avoiding Errors in Reasoning About the Social World

Difficulty Level: Medium

37. Jumping to conclusions could also be referred to as _____ reasoning.

a. selective

b. illogical

c. persuasive

d. exploratory

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.2: Define Social Science and identify its limitations.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Generalizing

Difficulty Level: Medium

Understanding the Social World Research Methods for the 21st Century 2nd edition Schutt Test Bank

38. _____ methods lessen the tendency to develop answers about the social world from ego-based or institutional commitments.

a. Qualitative

b. Generalizable

c. Scientific

d. Reevaluative

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.2: Define Social Science and identify its limitations.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Internet

Difficulty Level: Medium

39. Researchers interested in determining “what is going on here” typically engage in which type of research?

a. exploratory

b. explanatory

c. revisionist

d. Internet-based

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.3: Identify the four types of social research.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Exploratory Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

40. Research which produces numerical data are considered _____.

a. qualitative

b. biased

c. samples

d. quantitative

Understanding the Social World Research Methods for the 21st Century 2nd edition Schutt Test Bank

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain the difference between the orientations in the following two pairs: quantitative/qualitative; positivist/constructivist.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Quantitative and/or Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Easy

True/False

1. Qualitative and quantitative methods may be combined in research projects.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain the difference between the orientations in the following two pairs: quantitative/qualitative; positivist/constructivist.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Quantitative and/or Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. The distinction between quantitative and qualitative research is always clear.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain the difference between the orientations in the following two pairs: quantitative/qualitative; positivist/constructivist.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Quantitative and/or Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Qualitative data can be converted to quantitative data.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain the difference between the orientations in the following two pairs: quantitative/qualitative; positivist/constructivist.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Understanding the Social World Research Methods for the 21st Century 2nd edition Schutt Test Bank

Answer Location: Quantitative and/or Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Triangulation suggests that a researcher can gain a clear picture of the reality being studied by viewing it from one perspective.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.3: Identify the four types of social research.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Quantitative and/or Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Constructivism rejects positivism.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.3: Identify the four types of social research.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Quantitative and/or Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. Evaluation research is an example of explanatory research.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.3: Identify the four types of social research.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Evaluation Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. Exploratory research frequently revolves around quantitative methods.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.3: Identify the four types of social research.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Understanding the Social World Research Methods for the 21st Century 2nd edition Schutt Test Bank

Answer Location: Exploratory Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. Social science is the use of scientific methods to investigative individuals, societies, and social processes.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.2: Define social science and identify its limitations.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Avoiding Errors in Reasoning About the Social World

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Social scientists do not study the Internet as part of the conversation.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.2: Define social science and identify its limitations.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Science, Society, and Social Research

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. Understanding social science research methods has little value for students outside of class.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.2: Define social science and identify its limitations.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Value of Social Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

Short Answer

1. What is social science? What are its limitations?

Ans: Answer will vary. Students should note that social science relies on scientific methods to investigate individuals, societies, and social processes. When we utilize scientific methods

Understanding the Social World Research Methods for the 21st Century 2nd edition Schutt Test Bank

within the social sciences, we observe individuals and social groups. Students should further note that there are errors that may occur when conducting social scientific research. The limitations involved include the risk of overgeneralization, inaccurate observation, illogical reasoning, and resistance to change.

Learning Objective: 1.2: Define Social Science and identify its limitations.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Avoiding Errors in Reasoning About the Social World

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Identify and describe the three components of resistance to change.

Ans: Answer will vary. Students should identify ego-based commitments, excessive devotion to tradition, and uncritical agreement with authority as the three components of resistance to change. Ego-based commitments entail making statements about the social world that conform to our own needs, rather than to observable facts. Excessive devotion to tradition entails distorting our observations as a means of maintaining our own beliefs. This hinders the ability to accept new findings and develop new knowledge. Uncritical agreement with authority entails failing to critically evaluate the ideas of those in positions of power. This prevents scientists from establishing new discoveries, limiting our understanding of the social world.

Learning Objective: 1.1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Reevaluating

Difficulty Level: Hard

3. Define positivism and constructivism. Describe the role each plays in social science research.

Ans: Answer will vary. Students should define positivism as the belief that there is a reality that exists apart from our own perception of it. This separate reality may be understood through observation. Conversely, constructivism is a methodology based on questioning belief in an external reality. Constructivism emphasizes the importance of exploring the way in which different stakeholders in a social setting construct their belief. Students should address how social scientists apply both concepts and their usefulness in generating quality research findings.

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain the difference between the orientations in the following two pairs: quantitative/qualitative; positivist/constructivist.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Quantitative and/or Qualitative Methods

Understanding the Social World Research Methods for the 21st Century 2nd edition Schutt Test Bank

Difficulty Level: Hard

4. Describe quantitative and qualitative research and provide an example of each.

Explain which types of social research are best accomplished by each methodology.

Ans: Answer will vary. Students should note that quantitative methods revolve around numerical data. Surveys and experiments that record variation in social life in terms of categories that vary in amount are quantitative based. An example of quantitative methods may include a survey-oriented experiment, or any experiment focused on numerical data. Qualitative methods include participant observation, intensive interviews, and focus groups. Qualitative research seeks to capture social life as participants experience it rather than in categories predetermined by the researcher. An example of a qualitative research study may include personal, social experiences of a specific population. Students should identify when each type of research is generally employed.

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain the difference between the orientations in the following two pairs: quantitative/qualitative; positivist/constructivist.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Quantitative and/or Qualitative Methods

Difficulty Level: Hard

5. What is selective observation? What, if anything, motivates social scientists to avoid selective observation in their research?

Ans: Answer will vary. Choosing to only look at things that are in line with our preferences or beliefs. Students should identify the drawbacks of selective observation such as limiting research scope, tainting findings, etc. Students should discuss the importance of unbiased, scientifically sound research practices.

Learning Objective: 1.1: Describe the four common errors in everyday reasoning.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Observing

Difficulty Level: Medium

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