# *Social Groups in Action and Interaction 2nd edition Stangor Test Bank*

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## Chapter 2: Studying Groups Scientifically

1. Define basic research and applied research. Give an example of each type, other than those mentioned in Chapter 2. How do these two types of research relate to each other?

2. Define a theory and a research hypothesis. Give a specific example of each. What role do each play in research?

3. Consider how network analysis and SYMLOG are used to organize data and to understand group behavior in observational studies.

4. What are the goals of observational, correlational, and experimental research? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each research approach?

5. A scientist studying work groups in businesses has found a positive correlation between the average social identity of the members of a group and the group's task performance. How should such a relationship be interpreted?

6. Describe a correlational research design that might be used to test the research hypothesis that increases in group size lead to decreases in group cohesion. Describe the operational definitions of the predictor and outcome variables, and explain why the correlational design does not allow us to draw conclusions about causal relationships between them.

7. Describe an experimental research design that might be used to test the research hypothesis that increases in group size lead to decreases in group cohesion. Describe the operational definitions of the independent and dependent variables, and explain why the experimental design allows us to draw conclusions about causal relationships between them. Be sure to consider the creation of initial equivalence between the groups.

8. Describe the meaning of statistical significance and the effect size. What is the difference between them, and how is each used in research?

9. What is external validity? How is a meta-analysis used to determine whether or not a group of studies have it?

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1. A scientist who studies how group psychotherapy can be used to improve the mental health of depressed patients is conducting
   **a. applied research.**
   b. correlational research.
   c. variable research.
   d. experimental research.

2. Which one of the following journal article titles most likely represents an example of basic research?
   a. "Teaching children to cooperate in groups."
   **b. "How individuals perceive groups: A test of social categorization theory."**
   c. "Effect of group size and group composition on jury decision making."
   d. "Creating effective work groups: Ideas for business managers."

3. Which of the following is a set of principles that explains and predicts many, but not all, observed relationships within a given domain?
   a. A tautology.
   b. A research hypothesis.
   **c. A theory.**
   d. A deduction.

4. Leslie has developed a prediction about group behavior that proposes that people will be happier in smaller groups than in larger groups, because there is more interaction and interdependence in smaller groups. Leslie has developed which of the following?
   **a. A theory.**
   b. A research hypothesis.
   c. An experimental question.
   d. A correlational question.

5. A research hypothesis is said to be *falsifiable* if the variables of interest can be adequately measured, and if the expected relationship between the variables can be shown through research to be
   a. correlated.
   b. correct.
   c. parsimonious.
   **d. incorrect.**

6. Conceptual variables are turned into measured variables using
   a. a quantitative definition.
   b. a measured response.
   **c. an operational definition.**
   d. the research hypothesis.

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7. An operational definition
   a. tests a relationship between measured variables.
   b. describes the causes of a behavior.
   c. expresses a behavior in terms of a mathematical formula.
   **d. explains how a conceptual variable is to be measured.**

8. Franklin is interested in determining how groups perform on different tasks. He observes college students sitting together in the student union and records everything that they do. Franklin's measure could be best considered as which of the following measures?
   a. A self-report measure.
   b. A perceptual report of group interaction.
   c. A psychophysiological measure.
   **d. A behavioral measure.**

9. A researcher asks all of the employees at a small corporation to indicate how much they interact with each of the other employees. The researcher is likely conducting a(n)
   **a. network analysis.**
   b. SYMLOG analysis.
   c. operational definition.
   d. experiment.

10. A visual display of a social network is called a(n)
   a. behavioral analysis.
   **b. sociogram.**
   c. ecological analysis.
   d. spurious relationship.

11. Which of the following represents an observational method of studying groups in which the behavior of group members are classified into a limited number of types of activities?
   a. A sociogram.
   b. An operational definition.
   **c. SYMLOG.**
   d. A network analysis.

12. Which of the following is an advantage of observational research designs?
   a. They allow us to understand how one behavior causes another behavior.
   b. They allow us to understand the relationships between variables that occur in everyday life.
   **c. They provide a relatively complete picture of what is occurring at a given time.**
   d. They allow testing research hypotheses.

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13. Leon Festinger's research in which he and his colleagues infiltrated a cult and studied how it developed and changed its beliefs reflects which of the following research designs?
    a. Experimental.
    b. Correlational.
    c. Hypothetical.
    **d. Observational.**

14. Leon Festinger's research in which he and his colleagues infiltrated a cult and studied how it developed and changed its beliefs was particularly interesting because it studied real people in real settings. We can say that this characteristic of the research reflects
    a. experimental validity.
    b. internal validity.
    c. hypothetical validity.
    **d. ecological validity.**

15. Which of the following is a characteristic of observational research designs?
    **a. Cannot be used to test research hypotheses.**
    b. Has high internal validity.
    c. Has high statistical significance.
    d. Has low ecological validity.

16. A scientist predicts that individuals who are naturally shy will have lower status in social groups. The appropriate research design to test this hypothesis is
    a. experimental.
    b. descriptive.
    c. predictive.
    **d. correlational.**

17. A researcher who uses knowledge of a person's intelligence to predict his or her performance in a group is using which type of research design?
    a. Descriptive.
    b. Experimental.
    **c. Correlational.**
    d. Causational.

18. A researcher has found that the correlation between social identity and group cohesion is $r = 0.25$, whereas the correlation between social identity and group performance is $r = -0.32$. Which of the two correlations is the strongest?
    a. The correlation between social identity and group cohesion.
    **b. The correlation between social identity and group performance.**
    c. Both correlations are equally strong.
    d. Cannot be determined.

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19. If we find that there is a positive correlation between group cohesion and group performance, which of the following is true?
    a. Higher group cohesion causes higher group performance.
    b. Higher group performance causes higher group cohesion.
    c. There is a third variable that causes both group performance and group cohesion.
    **d. Any of the above possibilities may be correct.**

20. A researcher finds that the number of times people carry an umbrella in a month is related to how fast the grass is growing. This relationship is most likely to be
    a. causal.
    b. produced by an extraneous variable.
    **c. spurious.**
    d. produced by reciprocal causation.

21. Which of the following is used to be certain that the participants in the different conditions of a research design are, on average, equivalent before the experiment begins?
    a. Random sampling of participants.
    **b. Random assignment to conditions.**
    c. Temporal priority of the independent variable.
    d. A measured dependent variable.

22. In experimental research, the temporal priority of the independent variable is guaranteed through the use of
    a. the analysis of variance.
    **b. the experimental manipulation.**
    c. random assignment to conditions.
    d. the creation of initial equivalence.

23. The extent to which changes in the dependent variable can confidently be attributed to the influence of the independent variable is known as
    a. pilot testing.
    b. experimental impact.
    **c. internal validity.**
    d. internal analysis.

24. The difference between a factorial experimental design and a one-way experiment is that
    a. there is a stronger manipulation used in the factorial design.
    b. causality can be found more clearly in the factorial design.
    c. statistical significant tests are possible in the factorial design.
    **d. there is more than one independent variable in the factorial design.**

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25. A scientist manipulates both the number of people in the group and the type of task the group is working on in the same experiment. He predicts that both variables together influence the dependent variable, such that the influence of type of task is different in the group sizes. Which of the following has the scientist predicted?
**a. An interaction.**
b. Statistical significance.
c. An effect size.
d. A one-way analysis.

26. Which of the following is a disadvantage of experimental designs?
a. They cannot normally be conducted to study groups.
**b. There are some variables that cannot be experimentally manipulated.**
c. They do not allow the researcher to make statements about causality.
d. The measures that they use may be invalid.

27. An experiment that is conducted in an everyday setting, such as in a school or organization, is known as a
**a. field experiment.**
b. lab experiment.
c. internally valid experiment.
d. observational experiment.

28. _____ refers to the probability that an observed relationship was due to chance whereas _____ refers to the strength of an observed relationship.
a. internal validity; external validity
b. external validity; internal validity
c. the effect size; statistical significance
**d. statistical significance; the effect size**

29. The major issue underlying external validity is that of
a. ecological validity.
**b. generalization.**
c. random assignment.
d. meta-analysis.

30. Which of the following refers to an analysis that systematically selects existing research and uses the effect size statistic to draw conclusions about the research literature?
a. Correlational study.
b. Literature review.
c. Randomly assigned literature search.
**d. Meta-analysis.**

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