

Test Bank of Multiple Choice Questions for **Instructors**

Note: In each case the correct answer is coloured. The correct answer is given in **red**. For each chapter the final questions relate to glossary definitions (in **bold** in the text).

Short Answer Questions

Chapter 2

2.1 What is the difference between replication and reification?

2.2 Why do parsimonious explanations tend to be desirable explanations?

2.3 How would you explain falsificationism in terms suitable for a non-scientist?

Chapter 2 Research in Psychology: Objectives and Ideals

1. Which of the following statements is *false*?

- a) A key goal of science is to identify as many facts as possible.
- b) A key goal of science is to develop as many theories as possible.
- c) A key goal of science is to develop as many theories as possible on the basis of the smallest number of facts.
- d) Both (a) and (b).
- e) All of the above.

2. Which of the following does *not* contribute to the development of knowledge and theory in psychology?

- a) Evidence that supports a hypothesis.
- b) Evidence that contradicts a hypothesis.
- c) Evidence that tests a hypothesis.
- d) Falsified evidence.
- e) Both (b) and (d).

3. Which of the following statements is true?

- a) Experiments are the most scientific form of psychological research
- b) Surveys are the most scientific form of psychological research.
- c) Case studies are the most scientific form of psychological research.
- d) Quasi experiments are the most scientific form of psychological research.
- e) None of the above (no method of conducting psychological research is superior to all others).

4. Which of the following statements is true?

- a) The person credited with performing the first experiment in psychology is Wilhelm Wundt at the University of Leipzig
- b) The person credited with performing the first experiment in psychology is Sigmund Freud at his clinic in Vienna
- c) The person credited with performing the first experiment in psychology is Stanley Milgram at Yale University.
- d) The person credited with performing the first experiment in psychology is Thomas Kuhn at University of California, Berkeley.
- e) None of the above.

5. What was Thomas Kuhn's main contribution to our understanding of theory development in science?

- a) He proposed that scientific theory develops backwards.
- b) He proposed that scientific theory develops through phases of 'normal science' followed by 'scientific revolution'.
- c) He proposed that science develops through a chaotic process.
- d) He proposed that the process through which scientific theory develops is largely random.
- e) None of the above.

6. Brenda Milner's neuropsychological studies of HM — a man who had had brain surgery for epilepsy that left him with almost no ability to create long-term memories — are an example of what type of research method?

- a) Experimental
- b) Survey
- c) Archival
- d) Case study
- e) None of the above

7. Which of the following statements is true?

- a) Case studies have no place in psychological research.
- b) Case studies are only of use when larger samples of participants cannot be obtained.
- c) There are almost no examples of influential case studies in psychology.
- d) Case studies are only used in clinical psychology.
- e) None of the above.

8. Which of the following would be of interest to a behaviourist?

- a) A person's mental state.
- b) A person's mental processes.
- c) A person's reaction time.
- d) (a) and (b) only.
- e) All of the above.

9. Which of the following is a *not* physiological measure?

- a) A measure of blood flow through a person's brain.
- b) A person's heart rate.
- c) A person's response to questions on a survey.
- d) A measure of skin conductance.
- e) Both (c) and (d).

10. If an experimental finding is reliable, which of the following statements is true?

- a) Other researchers should be able to replicate it.
- b) It supports a researcher's experimental predictions
- c) It supports a researcher's theory
- d) It occurred for the reason hypothesised by the researcher
- e) It will make a significant contribution to scientific knowledge

11. If an experimental finding is invalid:

- a) It should be reliable.
- b) It did not occur for the reason hypothesised by the researcher.
- c) It does not support a researcher's experimental predictions.
- d) It contradicts a researcher's theory.
- e) The experiment must have been badly conducted.

12. Theory A explains phenomenon L and phenomenon M using principles X and Y. Theory B explains phenomenon L and phenomenon M using principle X. Theory C explains phenomenon L using principles X and Y. Which of the following statements is true?

- a) Theory A is the most parsimonious.
- b) Theory B is the most parsimonious.
- c) Theory C is the most parsimonious.
- d) Theory A and Theory C are equally and most parsimonious.
- e) Theory A and Theory B are equally and most parsimonious.

13. Which of the following statements is true?

- a) The best research is rarely made public.
- b) Only good research is made public.
- c) The public has no role to play in the evaluation of research.
- d) Most psychological research is irrelevant to the public.
- e) None of the above.

14. Which of the following is associated with use of the scientific method in psychological research?

- a) Systematic observation.
- b) Controlled experimentation.
- c) Concern with the reliability of findings.
- d) Both (b) and (c).
- e) All of the above.

15. According to Thomas Kuhn, which of the following statements is *false*?

- a) Science always progresses steadily and in a linear direction.
- b) Science sometimes involves revolutions in thinking.
- c) Science mainly involves steady progression, but is occasionally punctuated by revolutions in thinking.
- d) Science mainly involves steady progression, but is occasionally punctuated by revolutions in thinking.
- e) Both (c) and (d).

16. Which of the following statements is true?

- a) A psychological theory can be falsified by a single finding.
- b) A psychological theory can only be falsified by a large number of findings.
- c) Psychological theories can never be falsified.
- d) Psychologists should not be interested in falsifying theory, as this is dishonest.
- e) None of the above.

17. According to Popper, what is the key way in which psychological theory progresses?

- a) The falsification of incorrect theories.
- b) The replacement of falsified theories with superior ones.
- c) Scientific revolution which leads to the rejection of old ways of thinking.
- d) Both (a) and (b).
- e) All of the above.

18. Which of the following is *not* an accepted feature of good research?

- a) It should be cumulative.
- b) It should contribute to the development of theory.
- c) It should be valid.
- d) It should be reliable.
- e) None of the above (all are accepted features of good research).

19. Which of the following statements is true?

- a) It is easy to publish psychological research in peer-reviewed journals.
- b) All psychological research is published in peer-reviewed journals.
- c) Only experimental research is published in peer-reviewed journals.
- d) There are no peer-reviewed journals in psychology.
- e) **None of the above.**

20. "An association between two or more things, such that one causes the other (i.e. makes it happen)." What is this a glossary definition of?

- a) Reification
- b) **Causal relationship**
- c) Theory
- d) Experimental induction
- e) Induction

21. "A procedure for acquiring and testing knowledge through systematic observation or experimentation (e.g., through use of empirical methods)." What method is this a glossary definition of?

- a) **The scientific method**
- b) The experimental method
- c) The survey method
- d) The observational method
- e) The interactionist method

22. "The goal of accounting for the maximum number of empirical findings in terms of the smallest number of theoretical principles". What research principle is this a glossary definition of?

- a) Minimalism.
- b) Maximalism.
- c) Hypothetico-minimalism.
- d) **Parsimony.**
- e) None of the above.

23. "The process of rejecting conclusions and theories on the basis of evidence that is inconsistent with them." What research principle is this a glossary definition of?

- a) **Falsification.**
- b) Rejectionism.
- c) Hypothetico-deductivism.
- d) Defensibility.
- e) Evidential determinism.

24. “Both (a) the process of attempting to reproduce a previously obtained finding and (b) a research finding which reproduces another that has been obtained previously.” What does this glossary entry define?

- a) **Replication**
- b) Validation
- c) Extension
- d) Reproduction
- e) Experimental validation

25. “The extent to which a given finding shows what it is believed to show. A valid finding is one that has been logically and correctly interpreted.” What construct is this a glossary definition of?

- a) **Validity**
- b) Believeability.
- c) Causal inference.
- d) Deduction.
- e) Reliability.