THINK Social Psychology
Chapter 2: The Science of Social Psychology

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The tendency to view events that have already occurred in the past as more predictable than they were before they took place is defined as _____.
   a. Hindsight bias
   b. Observational bias
   c. The false consensus effect
   d. Retrospection
   Answer: a
   Page ref: 5
   Skill: Factual
   Easy

2. You have reservations about taking an advanced chemistry class but you decide to register anyway. After you receive a D on your first exam you think to yourself, "I knew this class was going to be too hard! I never should have signed up." Your belief that you knew the outcome all along refers to what phenomenon?
   a. Regret
   b. The false uniqueness effect
   c. Hindsight bias
   d. The false consensus effect
   Answer: c
   Page ref: 6
   Skill: Applied
   Moderate

3. Which adage best illustrates the concept of hindsight bias?
   a. The early bird gets the worm.
   b. Hindsight is 20/20.
   c. Birds of a feather flock together.
   d. You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
   Answer: b
   Page ref: 5
   Skill: Conceptual
   Easy

4. You routinely stop at a nearby restaurant every Friday to pick-up your favorite tuna-melt sandwich. During your latest visit, you are shocked to learn that the sandwich you love so much has been taken off the menu because it is not very popular among customers. Your surprise can best be explained by _____?
   a. The 'I knew it all along' phenomenon
   b. Hindsight bias
   c. The false uniqueness effect
   d. The false consensus effect
   Answer: d
   Page ref: 6
   Skill: Applied
   Difficult

5. Daniel cheated on his college history exam and believes that, like himself, almost every student cheats on an exam at least once or twice. Assuming he is incorrect, Daniel's tendency to overestimate the extent to which others cheat is known as _____.
   a. Hindsight bias

b. The false consensus effect
c. The 'I knew it all along' phenomenon
d. The overestimation effect
Answer: b
Page ref: 6
Skill: Applied
Moderate

6. According to you your textbook, what is considered the first step in the research process?
a. Creating a research question
b. Creating a hypothesis
c. Defining your variables
d. Colleting the data for your study
Answer: a
Page ref: 7
Skill: Factual
Easy

7. A _____ is a general framework for understanding a concept that allows us to describe, predict, and explain events.
a. research question
b. hypothesis
c. variable
d. theory
Answer: d
Page ref: 7
Skill: Factual
Easy

8. Which of the following would NOT represent a formal step in the research process?
a. Searching personal blogs and websites like Wikipedia for information on your topic
b. Gathering past research and background information on a topic
c. Developing a research question
d. Developing a hypothesis
Answer: a
Page ref: 7-8
Skill: Conceptual
Easy

9. Prior to beginning your search for literature on your research topic, you should do which of the following?
a. Search Wikipedia for preliminary information on your topic.
b. Identify key words relevant to your topic.
c. Search personal blogs to familiarize yourself with the topic.
d. Collect the data for your study.
Answer: b
Page ref: 7
Skill: Conceptual
Moderate

10. Gender and level of self-esteem can be considered examples of _____
a. hypotheses
b. research questions
c. theories
d. variables
Answer: d

Page ref: 8
Skill: Conceptual
Easy

11. When experts in a field review and comment on other colleagues' work, this is known as _____.
    a. Expert review
    b. Scientific review
    c. Search and review
    d. Peer review
    Answer: d
    Page ref: 8
    Skill: Factual
    Moderate

12. A researcher formed the following hypothesis: "Good children receive more positive attention from their parents than bad children". The main problem with this hypothesis is:
    a. The hypothesis is too specific.
    b. The hypothesis does not define the sample of interest.
    c. 'Good children' and 'bad children' are too vague and abstract.
    d. There is no problem with the hypothesis.
    Answer: c
    Page ref: 8
    Skill: Conceptual
    Moderate

13. Which of the following hypotheses is currently stated in the *least* testable form?
    a. Good parenting leads to better behaved children
    b. Watching more than 5 hours of television a day is related to weight gain.
    c. Teenagers who join gangs are more likely to have criminal records.
    d. Individuals in relationships will report higher life satisfaction.
    Answer: a
    Page ref: 8
    Skill: Conceptual
    Difficult

14. You hypothesize that lack of sleep impairs cognitive ability. In order to test your hypothesis, you will have to determine how to define and measure 'lack of sleep' and 'cognitive ability'. This is another way of saying that you will have to:
    a. develop a research question
    b. develop a theory
    c. develop a hypothesis
    d. create an operational definition
    Answer: d
    Page ref: 8
    Skill: Conceptual
    Difficult

15. The measurement of a variable is considered valid when:
    a. it produces the same result over and over again
    b. it measures what it is supposed to measure
    c. it can be supported as true
    d. none of the above
    Answer: b
    Page ref: 8

Skill: Factual
Moderate

16. Consistent measurement refers to _____.
    a. validity
    b. reliability
    c. replication
    d. sampling
    Answer: b
    Page ref: 8
    Skill: Factual
    Easy

17. Luri decides to conduct a study to examine whether pre-school boys and girls spend more time talking to same-sex or opposite sex children. In this example, preschool children represents_____.
    a. the variable
    b. the hypothesis
    c. the population
    d. the sample
    Answer: d
    Page ref: 8
    Skill: Applied
    Moderate

18. Researchers conducting a study in the US find that college-aged students in the Northeast tend to support same-sex marriages. They then decide to conduct the exact same study on college-aged students in the south and find similar results. This process of repeating a study to corroborate original results is known as _____.
    a. validity
    b. reliability
    c. replication
    d. peer review
    Answer: c
    Page ref: 9
    Skill: Applied
    Moderate

19. Which of the following statements is most accurate about descriptive research?
    a. Descriptive research can tell researchers what caused a behavior.
    b. Descriptive research allows investigators to control for all factors that may affect the results of a study.
    c. Descriptive research can be used to find out why an event occurred.
    d. Descriptive research can be used to gather information about characteristics of a population.
    Answer: d
    Page ref: 11
    Skill: Conceptual
    Moderate

20. Laurie hypothesizes that women will be more likely than men to hold a door open for others. She decides to watch people coming in and out of a local coffee shop, recording the sex of each individual who holds the door open for another person. Laurie is conducting what type of research?
    a. Experimental research
    b. Naturalistic observation
    c. Archival research
    d. Correlational research
    Answer: b

Page ref: 11
Skill: Applied
Moderate

21. A researcher finds that there is a relationship between the amount of time college students spend at the library and performance on tests. Specifically, the more time spent at the library, the higher students scored on their exams. This relationship represents what type of correlation?
    a. A positive correlation
    b. A negative correlation
    c. No correlation
    d. An illusory correlation
    Answer: a
    Page ref: 12
    Skill: Applied
    Difficult

22. Which of the following is a form of data collection in which participants are asked to rate or describe their own behavior or mental state?
    a. experimental research
    b. naturalistic observation
    c. survey method
    d. archival research
    Answer: c
    Page ref: 13
    Skill: Factual
    Easy

23. Kristen is interested in studying how heat influences crime. Using data from weather reports and police records of crime reports she tests the hypothesis that crime is higher on days that are hot. Kristen has conducted a(n)
    a. survey study
    b. observational study
    c. experiment
    d. archival study
    Answer: d
    Page ref: 13
    Skill: Applied
    Moderate

24. What type of research involves exploring the relationship between two variables?
    a. correlational research
    b. naturalistic observation
    c. survey method
    d. archival research
    Answer: a
    Page ref: 13
    Skill: Factual
    Easy

25. Which of the following can be considered a major limitation of correlations?
    a. Correlations cannot tell you if two variables are related.
    b. Correlations are only studied in small samples.
    c. Correlations cannot tell you *how much* two variables are related.
    d. Correlations do not allow researchers to assess cause and effect between two variables.
    Answer: d

Page ref: 13
Skill: Conceptual
Difficult

26. A different factor that could be responsible for an observed effect between two other variables is defined as _____.
    a. a matched sample
    b. a third variable
    c. the directionality problem
    d. both a third variable and the directionality problem
    Answer: b
    Page ref: 13
    Skill: Factual
    Moderate

27. Daniel conducts a study looking at the relationship between exercise and depression and finds there is a negative correlation. Daniel concludes that exercise causes people to become less depressed. However, a colleague points out the possibility that less depressed people may simply be more likely to exercise. This represents a problem in interpreting correlations best known as _____.
    a. The problem of direction
    b. The third variable problem
    c. Experimenter bias
    d. Confounding
    Answer: a
    Page ref: 14
    Skill: Applied
    Difficult

28. All of the following can be considered a descriptive method except:
    a. Experimental research
    b. Naturalistic observation
    c. Archival research
    d. Correlational research
    Answer: a
    Page ref: 14
    Skill: Factual
    Easy

29. A research design in which two or more groups of individuals are identical, or matching, on a third variable is known as _____.
    a. an archival design
    b. a correlational design
    c. a matched samples design
    d. a survey method design
    Answer: c
    Page ref: 14
    Skill: Factual
    Easy

30. You conduct a study on college students and find that there is a positive correlation between exercise and happiness. What can you conclude based on your findings?
    a. If college students exercise, they will be happy.
    b. An increase in exercise is associated with an increase in happiness.
    c. An increase in happiness is associated with an increase in exercise.
    d. Both an increase in exercise is associated with an increase in happiness and an increase in happiness is

associated with an increase in exercise.

Answer: d
Page ref: 13-14
Skill: Conceptual
Difficult

31. Which of the following statements represent a major difference between experimental methods and descriptive methods?
    a. Experimental methods do not involve manipulation of variables.
    b. Experimental methods do not involve controlling potential third variables.
    c. Experimental methods allow for identification of cause and effect.
    d. Both experimental methods do not involve manipulation of variables and experimental methods do not involve controlling potential third variables.

    Answer: c
    Page ref: 14
    Skill: Conceptual
    Moderate

32. A researcher who wants to know whether drinking caffeine causes increased energy would be most likely to conduct what type of study?
    a. An archival study
    b. An experimental study
    c. A correlational study
    d. An observational study

    Answer: b
    Page ref: 14
    Skill: Conceptual
    Moderate

33. Experimental research involves which of the following?
    a. Demonstrating correlations between variables
    b. Random assignment of participants to experimental conditions
    c. Manipulation of the independent variable
    d. Both random assignment of participants to experimental conditions and manipulation of the independent variable

    Answer: d
    Page ref: 14
    Skill: Conceptual
    Moderate

34. Field experiments are considered to be high in which of the following?
    a. Internal validity
    b. External validity
    c. Internal validity and reliability
    d. Neither internal or external validity

    Answer: b
    Page ref: 14
    Skill: Factual
    Moderate

35. You want to conduct an experiment but you are concerned with being able to apply your findings to the general population. You would be more likely to conduct what type of study in this situation?
    a. Naturalistic observation
    b. Correlational study
    c. Lab experiment

d. Field experiment
Answer: d
Page ref: 14
Skill: Conceptual
Difficult

36. In an experimental research design, the group that receives the main treatment or manipulation is called _____.
a. the experimental group
b. the control group
c. the research group
d. the manipulated group
Answer: a
Page ref: 15
Skill: Factual
Easy

37. In an experimental research design, the group that does not receive the main treatment, and is used for comparison to the treatment group is called _____.
a. the experimental group
b. the control group
c. the research group
d. the manipulated group
Answer: b
Page ref: 15
Skill: Factual
Easy

38. In an attempt to determine whether noise interferes with performance, Marc randomly assigns participants to take a math test either while listening to loud music or in silence. In this study, performance is considered the:
a. independent variable
b. predictor
c. dependent variable
d. the control group
Answer: c
Page ref: 15
Skill: Applied
Difficult

39. In an attempt to determine whether noise interferes with performance, Marc randomly assigns participants to take a math test either while listening to loud music or in silence. In this study, the presence of absence of noise would be considered the:
a. independent variable
b. subject variable
c. dependent variable
d. random variable
Answer: a
Page ref: 15
Skill: Applied
Difficult

40. One reason random assignment is considered important in experimental research is because
a. it allows researchers to determine which two variables are correlated to one another.
b. it allows a more representative sample of participants to be chosen for the study .

c. it allows researchers the ability to infer cause and effect.
d. both it allows a more representative sample of participants to be chosen for the study and it allows researchers the ability to infer cause and effect.

Answer: c
Page ref: 15
Skill: Conceptual
Difficult

41. When every participant has an equal chance of being assigned to any group in an experiment this is termed:
a. random assignment
b. random sampling
c. participant bias
d. manipulation of the independent variable

Answer: a
Page ref: 15
Skill: Factual
Moderate

42. Which of the following statements about random assignment is NOT true:
a. Random assignment is important for inferring cause and effect.
b. Random assignment ensures that participants have an equal chance of being assigned to any group in the experiment.
c. Random assignment is most relevant for ensuring external validity.
d. Random assignment ensures that each group contains the same type of participants.

Answer: c
Page ref: 15
Skill: Conceptual
Difficult

43. An experimenter finds that students in a morning class perform better on a math test after being taught with a new teaching method compared with students in an afternoon class who are taught with a standard teaching method. He concludes that the new teaching method is superior to the old method. The main problem with this experimenter's conclusion is:
a. He did not find a random sample of participants.
b. He did not consider the importance of external validity.
c. He did not consider the possible influence of participant bias.
d. He did not consider the time of day that students were being taught.

Answer: d
Page ref: 17
Skill: Applied
Difficult

44. When a participant's suspicions, expectations, or assumptions about the study influence the results this is known as _____.
a. confounding
b. participant bias
c. deception
d. invalidity

Answer: b
Page ref: 17
Skill: Factual
Easy

45. A subject in your study correctly assumes that you are interested in whether people behave in a prejudicial way towards people of a homosexual orientation. She then goes out of her way to act friendly and nice.

This represents an example of _____.
a. the placebo effect
b. participant bias
c. error
d. experimenter bias
Answer: b
Page ref: 18
Skill: Applied
Moderate

46. A measureable improvement that is found in a participant that cannot be attributed to any treatment given by the experimenter is known as _____
a. the placebo effect
b. participant bias
c. error
d. confounding
Answer: a
Page ref: 18
Skill: Factual
Moderate

47. In order to avoid the problem of the placebo effect, a researcher could do which of the following?
a. Find a random sample of participants.
b. Inform participants that they are not receiving the active treatment pill.
c. Conduct a single-blind study.
d. Inform participants that they are not receiving the sugar pill.
Answer: c
Page ref: 18
Skill: Conceptual
Moderate

48. A researcher gives half of her participants a new anti-anxiety pill and the other half a placebo pill. She does not tell participants whether they have received an active treatment pill or a sugar pill. This is an example of what type of study?
a. a prospective study
b. a single-blind study
c. a double-blind study
d. a observational study
Answer: b
Page ref: 18
Skill: Applied
Moderate

49. As your book describes, Rosenthal and Jacobson conducted a study in 1969 which showed that teachers' expectations about the intelligence level of students influenced their subsequent behavior and treatment of the students. This study illustrates a potential problem known as _____.
a. experimenter bias
b. placebo effect
c. participant bias
d. subject bias
Answer: a
Page ref: 18
Skill: Applied
Difficult

50. When neither the experimenter nor the participant knows who is in the experimental group and who is in the control group, this is known as _____.
    a. a single-blind study
    b. experimenter bias
    c. a double-blind study
    d. participant bias
    Answer: c
    Page ref: 18
    Skill: Factual
    Easy

51. According to your text, what type of study is considered the 'gold standard' in research because it offers the least threat of bias from participants or the experimenter?
    a. a observational study
    b. a field experiment
    c. a single-blind study
    d. a double-blind study
    Answer: d
    Page ref: 18
    Skill: Factual
    Moderate

52. Stanley Milgram conducted a famous study where he led participants to believe that they were administering increasingly painful electric shocks to another 'participant' when that person answered a question incorrectly. The false information provided to participants is known as _____.
    a. participant bias
    b. deception
    c. manipulation
    d. experimenter bias
    Answer: b
    Page ref: 19
    Skill: Applied
    Easy

53. At the end of a study, researchers are required to provide information to a participant about the hypotheses being tested, any deception that was used, and reasons for the use of deception. This process is termed _____.
    a. deceptive disclosure
    b. informed consent
    c. debriefing
    d. autonomy
    Answer: c
    Page ref: 19
    Skill: Factual
    Easy

54. Christine conducted a study looking at how images of thin female bodies influenced participants' views of their own body. She told participants as much as she could before the study began but had to use some deception. Participants were told that their job was to look at a series of images of women and rate the appeal of the clothing being worn. Afterwards she had participants fill out questionnaires, including a measure of body dissatisfaction. Once participants filled out the questionnaires, she thanked them and sent them on their way. What ethical guideline did Christine fail to follow?
    a. She did not obtain informed consent.
    b. She did not tell her participants the exact reason for her study before it began.
    c. She did not follow the principle of autonomy.

d. She did not debrief her participants.
Answer: d
Page ref: 19
Skill: Applied
Difficult

55. Which of the following is a basic ethical principle outlined in the Belmont Report by The National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research?
a. Beneficence
b. Autonomy
c. Justice
d. All answers listed are correct.
Answer: d
Page ref: 19
Skill: Factual
Easy

56. Researches who wish to conduct studies are NOT required to do which of the following?
a. Provide participants with information about the risks and benefits to participating in the study.
b. Provide participants with a full explanation of the hypothesis being tested following the experiment.
c. Provide participants with information about the exact hypothesis before the study begins so that subjects can make an informed decision about whether they want to participate.
d. Provide sufficient detail before the study begins so that subjects can make an informed decision about whether they want to participate.
Answer: c
Page ref: 19
Skill: Conceptual
Difficult

57. Which ethical principle in the Belmont requires researchers do no harm by maximizing the potential benefits to participants and minimizing the potential harm?
a. Beneficence
b. Justice
c. Autonomy
d. Integrity
Answer: a
Page ref: 19
Skill: Factual
Easy

58. Which ethical principle in the Belmont requires that the benefits and the burdens of the research be fairly distributed?
a. Beneficence
b. Justice
c. Autonomy
d. Objectivity
Answer: b
Page ref: 19
Skill: Factual
Easy

59. Which of the following statements best describes the primary responsibility of an Institutional Review Board (IRB)?
a. The IRB ensures that researchers do not use any deception in their studies.
b. The IRB ensures that researchers debrief participants only when absolutely necessary

c. The IRB ensures that researchers report and publish the findings of their studies.
d. The IRB ensures that the proposed studies meet ethical guidelines for human and non-human research participation.

Answer: d
Page ref: 19
Skill: Conceptual
Moderate

60. Subjects are told at the beginning of a study as much information as possible so that they can determine if they would like to participate. This is termed _____.
a. Debriefing
b. Justice
c. Informed consent
d. Both justice and informed consent

Answer: c
Page ref: 19
Skill: Factual
Moderate

True/False Questions

1. Hindsight bias refers to the tendency for people to overestimate the extent to which others share their beliefs and behaviors T F
   Answer: False
   Page ref: 5
   Skill: Factual

2. When a hypothesis is not supported by the data this means that it false. T F
   Answer: False
   Page ref: 8
   Skill: Conceptual

3. When an operational definition is valid this suggests that it measures what it is supposed to measure. T F
   Answer: True
   Page ref: 8
   Skill: Factual

4. A study that asks participants to rate their level of satisfaction with life is an example of a naturalistic observational study. T F
   Answer: False
   Page ref: 13
   Skill: Applied

5. A negative correlation between stress and job performance suggests that higher stress levels cause poorer job performance. T F
   Answer: False
   Page ref: 13
   Skill: Applied

6. Experimental methods do not allow researchers to identify causes of behaviors and events. T F
   Answer: False
   Page ref: 14

Skill: Factual

7. It is usually the case that if you increase the internal validity of your study, then you will be decreasing the external validity at the same time. T F
   Answer: True
   Page ref: 15
   Skill: Conceptual

8. If an experimenter seeks to learn the effects of music on anxiety and manipulates the type of music participants listen to, music is considered the independent variable. T F
   Answer: True
   Page ref: 15
   Skill: Applied

9. Random assignment is not necessary for researchers to be able to infer cause and in experimental studies. T F
   Answer: False
   Page ref: 15
   Skill: Conceptual

10. An experimenter who decides not to tell participants whether they are receiving a treatment pill or a sugar pill is conducting a double-blind study. T F
    Answer: False
    Page ref: 18
    Skill: Applied

11. In some cases it has been found that a sugar pill produces the same result as an active treatment pill. T F
    Answer: True
    Page ref: 18
    Skill: Conceptual

12. Participant bias occurs when the researcher subconsciously shows bias in his/her evaluation of the results in order to reach a desired conclusion. T F
    Answer: False
    Page ref: 18
    Skill: Factual

13. An experimenter who has falsely told participants they are taking part in a study about food preferences when the study is really concerned with eating disorders has utilized deception. T F
    Answer: True
    Page ref: 19
    Skill: Applied

14. Peggy does not provide research participants with a full explanation of her hypothesis after her study is complete. Peggy has failed to obtain what is known as informed consent. T F
    Answer: False
    Page ref: 19
    Skill: Applied

15. If it is necessary for the integrity of a study, researchers are allowed to utilize deception. T F
    Answer: True

Page ref: 19
Skill: Conceptual

Short Answer Questions

1. Briefly outline the steps involved in the research process.
   Page ref: 7-8
   Skill: Factual

2. Identify the major problem with the following hypothesis: "Bad parenting leads children to behave rudely." Briefly describe how you would re-phrase this hypothesis to make it *testable*.
   Page ref: 8
   Skill: Applied

3. You want to conduct a study looking at the relationship between exercise and stress. You hypothesize that people who report exercising more will also report lower levels of stress. Using this example, describe how you would operationally define the variables of interest for this study.
   Page ref: 11
   Skill: Applied

4. What is descriptive research? Briefly define two types of descriptive research.
   Page ref: 11-13
   Skill: Factual

5. Distinguish between positive and negative correlations. Provide an example of each one.
   Page ref: 13
   Skill: Conceptual

6. A researcher would like to investigate whether sleep is related to quality of life. What type of research method would allow him to explore the *association* between sleep and quality of life? Identify a limitation to the conclusions he could draw from his findings using this method.
   Page ref: 13
   Skill: Applied

7. Describe how a matched samples design can help researchers avoid the third variable problem.
   Page ref: 13
   Skill: Conceptual

8. Explain why random assignment is important for inferring cause and effect in experimental research.
   Page ref: 15
   Skill: Conceptual

9. Why do researchers have to guard against participant and experimenter bias? Describe one way researchers can avoid these problems.
   Page ref: 18
   Skill: Conceptual

10. A researcher is testing a new drug designed to improve weight loss. Describe how she should design her study to avoid the placebo effect. In your answer, be sure to describe the placebo effect.
    Page ref: 18
    Skill: Applied

11. Name the three basic ethical principles outline by the *National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research*. Pick two of the three ethical principles and provide a brief explanation of each one.
    Page ref: 19
    Skill: Factual

Essay Questions

1. Explain why it is difficult to draw causal inferences from correlational studies. Despite not being able to determine cause and effect from correlational studies, in what way can the findings still be useful and valuable? Provide an example.
   Page ref: 13-14
   Skill: Conceptual

2. Describe how you would conduct a naturalistic observational study to explore racial discrimination between Black and White college students. Name one advantage this type of research design might offer over self report or survey methods for investigating a topic like racial discrimination.
   Page ref: 11
   Skill: Applied

3. Compare and contrast descriptive methods and experimental methods. What distinguishes these two research methods from one another?
   Page ref: 13-14
   Skill: Conceptual

4. Define experimental research. Describe the two components that are required to conduct experimental research.
   Page ref: 14
   Skill: Factual

5. Compare and contrast internal and external validity. In an experimental design, can both internal and external validity be maximized at the same time? Why or why not?
   Page ref: 14-15
   Skill: Conceptual

6. Design an experiment to test the hypothesis that caffeine causes excitability. Name and describe the independent and dependent variables. Identify a potential confound and consider how you would address this in your study.
   Page ref: 15-17
   Skill: Applied

7. Distinguish between single-blind and double-blind study studies. What is the advantage of conducting a double-blind study and why is it considered the 'gold-standard' in research?
   Page ref: 19
   Skill: Conceptual

8. Describe the primary responsibilities of an Institutional Review Board (IRB)? When would an IRB deem it acceptable for researchers to use deception in their studies?
   Page ref: 19
   Skill: Factual