

Chapter 02

Research Methods

Multiple Choice Questions

1. (p. 41) Which of the following statements does NOT provide a reason for understanding the methods behind relationship science?

- A. Much of popular relationship advice is simply made up.
- B.** Personal experiences are more important for understanding relationships than statistics.
- C. There are too many charlatans and hucksters in the relationship advice field.
- D. Sound relationship research has an important influence on behavior in the real world.

2. (p. 42) Most relationship science studies:

- A. were conducted in the Age of Enlightenment.
- B. were conducted in the mid-1850s.
- C. were conducted in the early 1930s.
- D.** have been conducted in the past 50 years.

3. (p. 42) In the 1960s and 1970s, when studying relationship science, a new emphasis was put on:

- A.** laboratory experiments.
- B. poetry and philosophy.
- C. chemistry.
- D. medical science.

4. (p. 42) Byrne's work on attitude similarity in liking from the 1960s is important in the history of relationship science because it demonstrated that:

- A.** relationships can be studied rigorously in the laboratory.
- B. all relationships are the same.
- C. common sense is as important as research methods.
- D. relationships can be studied with electrodes.

5. (p. 42-43) Donn Byrne was one of the first to study _____ in a laboratory.

- A.** liking
- B. marriage
- C. divorce
- D. psychology

6. (p. 43) Today, relationship science:

- A. uses diverse samples of people.
- B. studies relationships over long periods of time.
- C. examines various types of relationships.
- D.** All of these.

7. (p. 46) Which type of research questions seek to delineate the pattern of relationships as fully and accurately as possible?

- A. Causal
- B.** Descriptive
- C. Explicit
- D. Implicit

8. (p. 46) Which of the following was NOT cited in the textbook as a source of research questions?

- A. Personal experience
- B. Social problems
- C. Previous research
- D.** Popular literature

9. (p. 46) A researcher who decides to study domestic violence because of a sudden increase in incidents of abuse is obtaining a research question from:

- A. personal experience.
- B.** a social problem.
- C. previous research.
- D. the theories of relationships.

10. (p. 46) The two broad types of questions relationship researchers ask are:
A. those that describe events as they naturally occur and those that seek to establish causal connections.
B. those that address social problems and those that seek to build theories.
C. those that seek to describe the status quo and those whose purpose is to affect change in a situation.
D. those involving romantic partnerships and those addressing all other types of relationships.
11. (p. 47) Which type of sample is selected to reflect the demographic characteristics of the population of interest?
A. Convenience samples
B. Representative samples
C. Random samples
D. Cumulative samples
12. (p. 47) The demographic characteristics of her married subjects are not important for Mary's research question—she will accept anyone who is willing to participate. Which sample is most appropriate for her research on intimate relationships?
A. Representative sample
B. Random sample
C. Convenience sample
D. Cumulative sample
13. (p. 47) For a project in her statistics class, Jody goes to the mall to ask people questions about their relationships. Jody is using a(n):
A. convenience sample.
B. representative sample.
C. unethical research procedure.
D. longitudinal procedure.

14. (p. 47-48) As suggested in the textbook, convenience samples are:

A. never helpful in answering research questions.

B. acceptable when we are examining the fundamental aspects of the ways humans react to each another.

C. unethical as participants are often not informed that they are part of a research study.

D. more reliable than representative samples.

15. (p. 50) If you posted an advertisement for your research study on marriage on the Internet and the couples who responded were more likely to be happy than the general public, this would be an example of:

A. experimenter bias.

B. volunteer bias.

C. research bias.

D. social desirability bias.

16. (p. 50) The idea that individuals willing to participate in a research study may be different from those who do not is the problem of:

A. volunteer bias.

B. convenience bias.

C. correlational bias.

D. research bias.

17. (p. 50) As the outdoor temperature increases, the sales of ice cream also increase.

Temperature and ice cream sales:

A. are negatively correlated.

B. are positively correlated.

C. are not correlated.

D. definitely have a causal connection.

18. (p. 50) Jamilla is doing a research project. Her research question applies to whether the number of college prep classes one takes in high school is related to the number of dates one had in high school. What type of design is she most likely to use?

- A. Correlational design
- B. Experimental design
- C. Developmental design
- D. Variable design

19. (p. 51) A negative correlation between scores of love and marital satisfaction in a particular study would show:

- A. love scores increase as satisfaction scores increase.
- B. love scores decrease as satisfaction scores decrease.
- C. love scores decrease as satisfaction scores increase.
- D. love scores increase as satisfaction scores remain unchanged.

20. (p. 51) You find a correlation between parenting attitudes and compatibility. This study can tell us all of the following points EXCEPT which one?

- A. Whether parenting attitudes cause a couple to be compatible
- B. Whether the relationship between attitudes and compatibility is positive or negative
- C. The strength of the relationship between attitudes and compatibility
- D. Whether there is a relationship between attitudes and compatibility

21. (p. 52) You find a positive correlation between sexual behavior and scores of affection; all of the following situations are possible EXCEPT which one?

- A. Frequent sexual behavior leads to increased feelings of affection.
- B. Increased feelings of affection lead to more frequent sexual behavior.
- C. Feelings of love cause both sexual behavior and feelings of affection to increase.
- D. The correlation is illusory; the two are unrelated.

22. (p. 53) Which designs provide the most clear and definitive tests of causal connections?

- A. Correlational designs
- B. Experimental designs
- C. Variable designs
- D. Cross-sectional designs

23. (p. 53) A major drawback in using experimental designs in research on intimate relationships is that:

- A. many important aspects of relationships (factors) cannot be manipulated.
- B. they do not tell us about causal connections between variables.
- C. appropriate samples are never possible to obtain.
- D. they are unethical because they require the manipulation of intimate aspects of relationships.

24. (p. 54) For a research study, Maurice and Anna are asked to interact as if they had just had a huge argument. It is likely that these researchers are using:

- A. role-play studies.
- B. a correlational design.
- C. a retrospective design.
- D. naturalistic observation.

25. (p. 54) A researcher asks a woman to pretend that she has been betrayed by her husband and then monitors the couple's interaction. This is an example of a(n):

- A. unethical role-play.
- B. scenario.
- C. simulation.
- D. virtual role-play.

26. (p. 54) One of the biggest disadvantages of role-play studies is that:

- A. they are often emotionally draining for the participants.
- B. participants may act in ways they think are acceptable rather than how they would in reality.
- C. there are many ethical questions surrounding this method of study.
- D. it is not useful when studying sensitive topics.

27. (p. 54) Which setting is best for capturing couples' most authentic interactions?

- A. Structured laboratory settings
- B. Unstructured laboratory settings
- C. Natural settings
- D. Combination of laboratory and natural settings

28. (p. 55) It is important that research measures are _____, or measure what they are supposed to measure.

- A. valid
- B. reliable
- C. structured
- D. causal

29. (p. 55) A research measure that produces the same results time after time under the same conditions is said to be _____.

- A. valid
- B. reliable
- C. structured
- D. causal

30. (p. 55) Sam administers the same questionnaire to the same person three separate times and receives three distinctly different results. Sam's research measure lacks:

- A. validity.
- B. reliability.
- C. scientific evidence.
- D. correlation.

31. (p. 55) A disadvantage of self-report data is that:

- A. it does not allow researchers to get an inside look at an experience from the person's point of view.
- B. it is expensive and difficult to obtain.
- C. people may misinterpret the questions.
- D. the data must later be coded into a form that is usable.

32. (p. 55) The most common measures of intimate relationships are:

- A. self-reports.
- B. behavioral observations.
- C. emotional observations.
- D. couple's reports.

33. (p. 56) Even when answered truthfully, self-reports may still be inaccurate because:

- A. they often lack reliability.
- B. it is difficult to gather them effectively.
- C. most people are reluctant to participate.
- D.** people don't always understand their own actions.

34. (p. 57) A research participant's distortion of his or her real desires or actions in an attempt to make a good impression is known as:

- A.** social desirability bias.
- B. self-serving bias.
- C. sampling bias.
- D. volunteer bias.

35. (p. 57) A couple who volunteered for a study wants to appear satisfied with the relationship to the researcher; this situation is an example of:

- A. researcher bias.
- B. self-serving bias.
- C.** social desirability bias.
- D. hindsight bias.

36. (p. 57) Anita is asked by researchers to carry a small recording device in her pocket for a week. Every so often, the device turns on and records what is happening. It is most likely that these researchers are using:

- A. self-reports.
- B.** event-sampling.
- C. a retrospective research design.
- D. immersive virtual environments.

37. (p. 57) Recent research has utilized cell phones to contact individuals. If you send text messages to participants every six hours to study how much they are thinking about their partner, it is an example of:

- A. representative sampling.
- B. random sampling.
- C. event-sampling.**
- D. sequential sampling.

38. (p. 59) If a researcher places observed behaviors on a continuum from positive to negative, this is an example of:

- A. coding.
- B. rating.**
- C. correlation.
- D. reactivity.

39. (p. 59) Jan observes conversations between married couples and takes note of every time they use an absolute such as "always" or "never." Jan is using:

- A. a coding procedure.**
- B. a rating procedure.
- C. EARs.
- D. an attachment assessment.

40. (p. 60) You want to videotape the interactions between two partners. Your study is most likely to be affected by which of the following factors?

- A. Experimenter bias
- B. Reactivity**
- C. Lack of validity
- D. Bystander effect

41. (p. 60) Which type of study is most vulnerable to reactivity?

- A. Archival
- B. Questionnaire
- C. Meta-analysis
- D. Observational**

42. (p. 60) An example of a physiological measure is:

- A. observing people in their natural settings.
- B. using EARs.
- C. assessing heart rates.
- D. counting the number of smiles during an interaction.

43. (p. 61) For his research study, Will looks at U.S. Census data from 1920, 1940, 1960, and 1980. He is using:

- A. archival information.
- B. correlational data.
- C. experience sampling.
- D. laboratory data.

44. (p. 61) One way that researchers ensure the ethical treatment of participants in close relationships studies is to:

- A. avoid having them discuss intimate processes.
- B. avoid concealing participants' identities.
- C. provide information about known risks and allow for voluntary consent.
- D. pay them or adequately compensate them for their participation.

45. (p. 62) Participants in studies of dating violence:

- A. often have positive reactions.
- B. are often distressed.
- C. often feel exploited after the study concludes.
- D. often feel inadequately compensated for their participation.

46. (p. 63) Which of the following is the BEST description of what we mean when we say something is statistically significant?

- A. The findings are important.
- B. It is unlikely the results were simply due to chance.
- C. The results will be significant for society.
- D. The findings are true.

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47. (p. 63) One of the challenges of relationship research is dealing with three sources of influence. These three sources are:

- A. the two individuals and society.
- B. the couple and their two sets of parents.
- C. the two individuals and their peer group.
- D. the two individuals and their combination as a pair.**

48. (p. 63-64) Relationship studies involve all of the following research challenges EXCEPT:

- A. obtaining data that is not independent—the response of one member of a couple may influence the other member's response.
- B. lack of certainty—statistical significance points to probabilities, not absolute truths.
- C. dealing with a combination of influences—the two individuals and the unique effects of their pairing.
- D. lack of usefulness—research only applies to the couples studied and only in rare cases can it be generalized to others.**

49. (p. 64) In a meta-analysis, researchers:

- A. statistically combine the results from several prior studies.**
- B. obtain information from a very large group of people.
- C. do a large number of analyses to try to figure out what is happening.
- D. use both developmental and experimental research designs.

50. (p. 64) To understand relationship trends from numerous studies over time, one would use:

- A. convenience samples.
- B. meta-analysis.**
- C. structural equation modeling.
- D. traditional research reviews.