

## Skills Center Psychology Practice Exam II

### Professor Bob Beck

- 1.) The scientific method always
  - a. begins with observation and ends with generation of a hypothesis.
  - b. begins with generation of a hypothesis and ends with systematic observation.
  - c. begins and ends with observation.
  - d. begins with the detection of regularities and ends with generation of a hypothesis.
- 2.) A hypothesis
  - a. is a conclusion based on the results of a research study.
  - b. is not necessary if the scientific method is being used.
  - c. normally wouldn't be generated until a study has been completed.
  - d. is a prediction about the characteristics of a behavior under investigation.
- 3.) Dr. Bores predicts that if the temperature of a room is increased, then individuals are more likely to act aggressively. Dr. Bores' prediction is an example of
  - a. a hypothesis.
  - b. empirical knowledge.
  - c. an operational definition.
  - d. a dependent variable.
- 4.) Dr. Boser is studying family relations and plans to define family cohesiveness in terms of the number of weekly activities families do together. Defining family cohesiveness in this way would
  - a. be a testable hypothesis.
  - b. provide empirical verification of the concept.
  - c. violate general research ethics.
  - d. represent an operational definition.
- 5.) The students in Dr. Kent's class are normally very active and there is a high level of classroom participation. However, recently there was an observer in the classroom and the participation level was very low. The change in the responsiveness of the students in Dr. Kent's class illustrates the concept of
  - a. experimental control.
  - b. negative correlation.
  - c. reactivity.
  - d. systematic observation.
- 7.) When a researcher records naturally occurring behavior, without any interference, the researcher is engaged in
  - a. correlational research.
  - b. experimentation.
  - c. naturalistic observation.
  - d. case study research.

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- 8.) Psychologists who pretended to be “doomsday” believers in order to infiltrate a cult group, and study and record the reactions of the group members, were using
- participant observation as a method of research.
  - the case study method of research.
  - survey research.
  - correlational research.
- 9.) City administrators who plan road improvements and monitor traffic patterns by studying how often road repairs are required at various intersections are engaged in
- invasive observation.
  - non-invasive naturalistic observation.
  - case study research.
  - participant observation.
- 10.) The case study is a research method in which
- the research effort focuses on a single case.
  - a representative sample of individuals is asked for their opinions.
  - selected individuals are carefully observed in their natural environments.
  - a researcher tries to determine the extent to which two variables influence each other.
- 11.) One of the main concerns with the case study method of research is
- a single case is seldom able to provide a historical perspective.
  - the experiences reported may not be representative of other cases.
  - hypotheses cannot be generated about the origin of behavior.
  - they cannot be used to study rare or unusual events.
- 12.) A survey is a research method in which
- selected individuals are carefully observed in their natural environments.
  - a representative sample of individuals is asked for their opinions.
  - a single individual is studied in great detail.
  - a researcher tries to determine the extent to which two variables influence each other.
- 13.) When everyone in the target population had an equal likelihood of being selected to take part in a survey, the researcher has selected a
- biased sample.
  - random population.
  - non-representative sample.
  - random sample.
- 14.) A researcher who conducts a survey by asking volunteers to phone in with their opinions is likely to have a

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- a. representative sample.
  - b. biased sample.
  - c. random sample.
  - d. random population.
- 15.) In order to learn whether the people in her state opposed or supported increased speed limits, Representative Jackson randomly surveyed 1000 of the state's residents. In this instance, all the people who live in Representative Jackson's home state would be considered to be
- a. a population.
  - b. a representative sample.
  - c. the dependent variable.
  - d. the independent variable.
- 16.) Measures of central tendency
- a. provide a value around which scores in a data set tend to cluster.
  - b. indicate how much the scores in a data set differ from one another.
  - c. can be used to decide whether the observed behavior in a sample is representative of some larger sample.
  - d. assess whether two variables vary together in a systematic way.
- 17.) The measure of central tendency that is most sensitive to extreme scores within the data set is
- a. the mode.
  - b. the median.
  - c. the standard deviation.
  - d. the mean.
- 18.) On a recent quiz Lena and Robert both scored 7 points, Russell scored 2 points, and Carol scored 4 points. For these four students, the mean for the quiz was
- a. 7.0 points.
  - b. 5.0 points.
  - c. 5.5 points.
  - d. 4.3 points.
- 19.) On a recent quiz Ganesa and Javon both scored 7 points, Armand scored 2 points, and Odette scored 4 points. For these four students, the mode for the quiz was
- a. 5.0 points.
  - b. 7.0 points.
  - c. 5.5 points.
  - d. 4.3 points.

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- 20.) Dr. Gates was studying memory in young children. Five children were asked to remember a list of words. Judd and Caroline each remembered 7 words. Byron remembered 6 words, Eve remembered 5 words, and Gunther remembered 4 words. For these five children, the median number of words that were recalled was
- 6.5 words.
  - 6.0 words.
  - 7.0 words.
  - 5.8 words.
- 21.) The range for a data set is
- the difference between the largest and smallest scores.
  - the arithmetic average of the set of scores.
  - the most frequently occurring score.
  - the middle point in the set of scores.
- 22.) The value that indicates how much the individual scores in a data set vary from the mean is
- the standard deviation for the data set.
  - the range for the data set.
  - the mode for the data set.
  - the median for the data set.
- 23.) Descriptive statistics help researchers
- decide whether the behavior observed in a sample is representative of some larger population
  - determine the likelihood that the pattern in the collected data occurred by chance.
  - describe the data obtained in a research study.
  - measure an individual's current level of knowledge or competence in a particular area.

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- 24.) Inferential statistics help researchers
- describe the data obtained in a research study.
  - measure a person's potential for success in a given area.
  - decide whether the behavior observed in a sample is representative of some larger population.
  - measure an individual's current level of knowledge or competence in a particular area.
- 25.) Dr. Ives predicts that if the noise level in a room is increased, then individuals are more likely to make errors on a complex task. This suggests that Dr. Ives believes noise level and errors are
- negatively correlated.
  - uncorrelated.
  - both dependent variables.
  - positively correlated.
- 26.) Of the following, the correlation coefficient that indicates the strongest relationship between the two variables being measured is
- 0.89.
  - +0.65.
  - 0.00.
  - +3.46.
- 27.) Active manipulation of some aspect of the environment, in order to observe the effect on behavior, is known as
- experimental research.
  - correlational research.
  - case study research.
  - participant observation.
- 28.) Dr. Wilson sets up an experimental study to investigate how self-esteem is affected by feedback from teachers. During the study third-grade teachers administer a short quiz where each child earns the same score (5 out of a possible 10 points). Half the children are told that this is a very good score while the rest are told that it is an average score. In this study the independent variable is
- the child's score on the quiz.
  - the child's level of self-esteem after the quiz has been returned.
  - the type of feedback the child receives (very good or average).
  - the age of the children who take part in the study.
- 29.) Researchers studying human memory presented people with two lists of words. One list included the names of objects; the other list contained abstract nouns. The researchers found that people could

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remember more words from the list with object names. In this study the number of words recalled by each participant would be

- a. a placebo.
- b. the dependent variable.
- c. a confounding variable.
- d. the independent variable.

30.) In an experimental study, the experimental group consists of the participants

- a. who are not exposed to the experimental treatment.
- b. who are exposed to the experimental treatment or the changed conditions.
- c. who are not exposed to the dependent variable.
- d. who score the highest in the study.

31.) A group of researchers wanted to determine whether children behave more aggressively after watching violent television programming. Half the children in the study watch a violent television show; the other children watch a non-violent television program. In this study the control group is

- a. the children who watch the violent show.
- b. the children who watch the non-violent program.
- c. the children who behave the most aggressively at the time of the study.
- d. all the children who take part in the study.

32.) Harrison conducts a decision-making experiment to determine if people reason more logically when they have more time to decide. Harrison allows all the participants who are under 40 years of age 15 minutes to reach a decision about a problem; all the participants who are over 40 are allowed 20 minutes to reach a decision about the same problem. In this study Harrison needs to be concerned about internal validity because

- a. there are two control groups and no experimental group.
- b. the length of time allowed for the decision is a confounding variable.
- c. there is no dependent variable in the experiment.
- d. the age of the participants is a confounding variable.

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- 34.) Random assignment to either the control or experimental group is an important aspect of experimental procedures. Random assignment is used to ensure that
- a representative sample of participants is initially selected.
  - expectancy effects are minimized within the experiment.
  - the independent variable will be reliable and valid.
  - the experimental group and the control group are as similar as possible.
- 35.) Dr. Marcus designs an experiment to test the effects of a new drug on learning. The drug is injected into one group of rats, while another group of rats receives a saline injection. Dr. Marcus designs the study so that the researchers administering the drug and recording the data are not certain which rats are receiving the treatment and which are receiving the placebo. Dr. Marcus has designed
- an unethical experiment.
  - a single-blind research study.
  - a double-blind research study.
  - a study that will maximize participant expectancy effects.

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1. c	10.a	18.b	26.a
2. d	11. b	19.b	27.a
3. a	12.b	20.b	28.c
4. d	13.d	21.a	29.b
5. c	14.b	22.a	30.b
7. c	15.a	23.c	31.b
8.a	16.a	24.c	32.d
9. b	17.d	25.a	34.d 35.c