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Social Research Methods (1st)

ISBN 9781544373935 | Chapter 1: Making the Case for Sociological Knowledge

Total Questions: 80

Easy

Multiple Choice (19)

Q1. [Multiple Choice]

According to the text, sociology is one type of science that falls under the umbrella of a group of related fields that are collectively known as _____ sciences.

- a) hard
- b) natural
- c) consumer
- d) **social ✓ correct**

Q2. [Multiple Choice]

Which of the following studies best describes sociology?

- a) The study of individual contributions to society.
- b) The scientific study of the human mind and personality.
- c) **The scientific study of how society and humans influence each other. ✓ correct**
- d) The scientific study of the human genome and brain interaction.

Q3. [Multiple Choice]

As a social science, sociology is part of a larger body of theory, knowledge, and _____.

- a) traditions
- b) common sense
- c) political ideologies
- d) **research techniques ✓ correct**

Q4. [Multiple Choice]

According to social scientists, hypotheses are _____.

- a) **testable statements that make predictions about how social life works ✓ correct**
- b) general explanations or propositions about social phenomena
- c) based on common sense knowledge about how the social world works
- d) empirical data that represent research findings

Q5. [Multiple Choice]

Social science functions in making observations about _____.

- a) the natural world
- b) biological phenomena
- c) physical structures
- d) **social life ✓ correct**

Q6. [Multiple Choice]

According to the text, the purpose of doing social science research is to generate _____.

- a) **truthful knowledge ✓ correct**
- b) over-simplistic perspectives
- c) common sense knowledge
- d) political ideologies

Q7. [Multiple Choice]

_____ occurs when you only rely on a few of your own experiences to make broad claims about other situations or other groups.

- a) Overgeneralization ✓ correct**
- b) Selective perception
- c) Resistance to change
- d) Common sense

Q8. [Multiple Choice]

A person is engaging in _____ when you do not question your own beliefs or assumptions despite being provided new data or information that contradicts your own assumptions.

- a) overgeneralizing
- b) resistance to change ✓ correct**
- c) common sense
- d) selective perception

Q9. [Multiple Choice]

To help reduce the risk of making misperceptions about social life, social researchers used the _____ to employ a strict set of steps that can help us sort to fact from fiction.

- a) common sense method
- b) overgeneralization approach
- c) selective perception method
- d) scientific method ✓ correct**

Q10. [Multiple Choice]

Like other social scientists, sociologists use the scientific method to follow a strict set of steps to ensure that their research is _____.

- a) perfect and objective
- b) transparent and replicable ✓ correct**
- c) resistant to change
- d) overgeneralizable

Q11. [Multiple Choice]

The scientific method demands that social science researchers collect _____, which means that the information can be observed by our human senses.

- a) artifacts
- b) postulates
- c) theory
- d) empirical data ✓ correct**

Q12. [Multiple Choice]

How would sociologists define empirical data?

- a) knowledge derived from authority that is translated into policies and procedures
- b) knowledge derived from experts
- c) information that can be observed in social life using our human senses ✓ correct**
- d) information that aligns with what humans believe is true

Q13. [Multiple Choice]

Janice, completed her research on juvenile delinquency and was amazed by how much peer interaction contributed to delinquency. She was assured of her research conclusions because she collaborated with other researchers about the effect of peer relationships and knew that she was not impacted by her personal experiences and biases. Her collaboration is an example of _____.

- a) intersubjectivity
- b) objectivity ✓ correct**
- c) infallibility
- d) replication

Q14. [Multiple Choice]

According to the text, learning about social science research is not only interesting, but also _____.

- a) useful in developing life skills ✓ correct**
- b) beneficial in developing selective perception
- c) useful in practicing implicit bias
- d) beneficial in developing common sense knowledge

Q15. [Multiple Choice]

Almost every sociology undergraduate program in the United States requires a(n) _____.

- a) first-year experience class
- b) research class ✓ correct**
- c) student affairs liaison program
- d) upward bound counselor

Q16. [Multiple Choice]

According to the text, a key goal of descriptive social science research is to provide you with _____ about a particular entity or phenomenon.

- a) facts ✓ correct**
- b) opinions
- c) political perspectives
- d) selective perception

Q17. [Multiple Choice]

Having the ability to sort fact from fiction in news accounts, advertisements, and fictional portrayals is being _____.

- a) media literate ✓ correct**
- b) selectively perceptive
- c) intersubjective
- d) subjective

Q18. [Multiple Choice]

Learning about social science research can provide insight into the policies and programs that govern our lives. This life skill benefit is referred to as _____.

- a) media literacy
- b) citizenship ✓ correct**
- c) healthy skepticism
- d) working in a career

Q19. [Multiple Choice]

With respect to citizenship and being more civically engaged in applying research skills, it helps to listen to all community members concerns involving a _____, which means that community members have a vote about a particular political question.

- a) certificate
- b) license
- c) registration
- d) referendum ✓ correct

True/False (8)

Q20. [True/False]

Sociologists who study climate change tend to focus on individual people and less on the broader society.

- a) True
- b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q21. [True/False]

Like natural science, sociology also applies to the scientific method.

- a) True ✓ correct
- b) False

Correct answer: True

Q22. [True/False]

Theoretical explanations help sociologists to observe and understand patterns of social life.

- a) True ✓ correct
- b) False

Correct answer: True

Q23. [True/False]

For sociologists, the first step in employing the scientific method is to formulate and present hypotheses.

- a) True
- b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q24. [True/False]

The scientific method uses a strict set of steps that can help us sort fact from fiction.

- a) True ✓ correct
- b) False

Correct answer: True

Q25. [True/False]

Learning about social science research is not useful for developing life skills.

- a) True
- b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q26. [True/False]

Intersubjectivity is when multiple researchers think that they can see the world as it is, without being influenced by their personal experiences.

- a) True
- b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q27. [True/False]

Having knowledge of social science research is not useful for understanding the variety of messages coming from the media.

- a) True
- b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Medium

Multiple Choice (27)

Q28. [Multiple Choice]

According to sociology, which statement is true regarding individuals and society?

- a) People and groups both shape society and are shaped by society. ✓ correct
- b) Individual personality traits are inherent and evolve within society.
- c) Powerful individuals and very few people have the capacity to change society.
- d) Norms and values are products of human instinct and cognition.

Q29. [Multiple Choice]

Sociologists use theoretical explanations to _____.

- a) establish their political perspectives
- b) explain patterns of social life ✓ correct
- c) identify common sense knowledge
- d) share their personal opinions

Q30. [Multiple Choice]

In social science, theoretical explanations about patterns of social life usually lead to the generation of _____.

- a) theoretical perspectives
- b) political opinions
- c) common sense knowledge
- d) hypotheses ✓ correct

Q31. [Multiple Choice]

What makes sociological research different from psychological research?

- a) It mainly focuses on what goes on inside people's heads.
- b) It addresses individual personalities in the context of groups and organizations.
- c) It involves cultural, societal, and institutional factors. ✓ correct
- d) It primarily focuses on individual behaviors manifested in social systems.

Q32. [Multiple Choice]

How do social scientists approach generating truthful knowledge?

- a) **by using the scientific method ✓ correct**
- b) by focusing on individual opinions
- c) by addressing all matters related to common sense in society
- d) by examining tradition and customs

Q33. [Multiple Choice]

According to the text, as a result of living in a complex world, our human brain has developed four primary shortcuts that can lead us to making erroneous conclusions about social life. Which of the following is one of those shortcuts?

- a) generalization
- b) **resistance to change ✓ correct**
- c) intersubjectivity
- d) empirical observation

Q34. [Multiple Choice]

Illogical reasoning occurs when we jump to conclusions based on a misinterpretation of the evidence because of _____.

- a) **faulty assumptions about that evidence ✓ correct**
- b) selective perception
- c) generalizing to the broader aspects of evidence
- d) accurate observations

Q35. [Multiple Choice]

Based on the erroneous assumption that Gen Z is the laziest narcissistic generation, a sociologist concludes that Gen Z's parents failed in instilling their children with a good work ethic. This conclusion is _____.

- a) **illogical reasoning ✓ correct**
- b) generalizing empirical evidence
- c) common sense
- d) selective perception

Q36. [Multiple Choice]

People who refuse to get the COVID-19 vaccination due to reading all the misinformation, nonscientific and political faulty assumptions about vaccines on the Internet are engaging in which type of shortcut?

- a) common sense
- b) overgeneralization
- c) selective perception
- d) **illogical reasoning ✓ correct**

Q37. [Multiple Choice]

Which of the following is one of the types of commonplace misperception?

- a) theoretical explanations
- b) **resistance to change ✓ correct**
- c) empirical data
- d) hypothesis

Q38. [Multiple Choice]

Employing the scientific method generally starts with a(n) _____.

- a) hypothesis
- b) collecting data
- c) research question or problem ✓ correct**
- d) analysis of empirical data

Q39. [Multiple Choice]

Social science research overcomes our tendency to rely on the authority of others and common sense by using _____.

- a) selective perception
- b) systematic criteria to collect data
- c) empirical data ✓ correct**
- d) theory to explain social phenomena

Q40. [Multiple Choice]

Social science researchers reduce the likelihood of overgeneralization by _____.

- a) gathering data in a systematic fashion ✓ correct**
- b) relying on common sense knowledge
- c) focusing on selective perception
- d) relying on implicit bias

Q41. [Multiple Choice]

How does the scientific method help us overcome our misperceptions about the social world?

- a) by encouraging us to rely on authority figures perspectives and policies
- b) by selecting certain perceptions for us concerning tradition and customs in the social world
- c) by guiding us to make systematic observations of the social world ✓ correct**
- d) by encourages us to overgeneralize our observations of the social world

Q42. [Multiple Choice]

Social science research studies should be _____ so that other researchers can redo them to see if they get the same or different results. Doing so allows researchers to be more critical of theories, methods, and findings.

- a) systematic
- b) intersubjective
- c) replicable ✓ correct**
- d) generalizable

Q43. [Multiple Choice]

One way to deal with the lack of objectivity in social science research—i.e., allowing personal experiences of the researchers influence their research findings—is for multiple researchers to look at aspects of a research problem and then collaborate to reach a scientific agreement on a pattern of social life. This collective effort is known as _____.

- a) replicating
- b) pure science
- c) systematic protocol
- d) intersubjectivity ✓ correct**

Q44. [Multiple Choice]

Having research skills gives you the benefit of having a _____.

- a) critical mindset ✓ correct**
- b) media illiterate focus
- c) political advantage
- d) liberal attitudes

Q45. [Multiple Choice]

Why is proficiency in social science research a useful and beneficial life skill?

- a) It is mandatory to enter graduate school.
- b) It provides the tools necessary for a person to be elected to political office.
- c) It is a primary skill in developing the ability to critically question news sources and make good decisions. ✓ correct**
- d) It paves the way for a person to become more liberal-minded toward life and career goals.

Q46. [Multiple Choice]

Which of the following is an example of having healthy skepticism in social science research?

- a) allow personal experiences to influence your perspective
- b) developing a selective perception that supports the opinion of policymakers
- c) synthesizing information to evaluate competing claims ✓ correct**
- d) align information to what you believe is true

Q47. [Multiple Choice]

Asking questions such as, "Who collected the data?" and "Were they trained to collect data in an ethical and systematic fashion?" are examples of which social science research skill?

- a) media illiteracy
- b) assessing intersubjectivity
- c) evaluating the quality of research ✓ correct**
- d) examining selective perception

Q48. [Multiple Choice]

After receiving many news feeds from his friends via Twitter, Chris asked himself "Am I really getting balanced news if I primarily rely on my friends to provide me with links?" He realizes that his news intake is not random and will seek a broader cross-section of news from different sources. Which life skill is Chris benefitting from?

- a) citizenship
- b) implicit bias
- c) media literacy ✓ correct**
- d) working in a career

Q49. [Multiple Choice]

With respect to the COVID-19 pandemic, how did the CDC, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and World Health Organization help social science research benefit society?

- a) By providing a stable political foundation in the midst of crisis, public health agencies thrived in meeting societal needs.
- b) By providing instruction and guidance to the biotech industry, new innovations to emergency response emerged.
- c) By providing data that were useful for documenting and understanding the social determinants of health inequities. ✓ correct**
- d) By providing ethical principles and guidance to society as a whole, local and state governments across the United States were able to meet their own public health needs.

Q50. [Multiple Choice]

Knowledge of sociological research methods can help us, as a society, to _____.

- a) challenge misinformation and over-simplistic claims ✓ correct**
- b) become less democratic and more socialist
- c) become less informed of public policy
- d) advocate for a more liberal point of view

Q51. [Multiple Choice]

How can social science research inform the public about the problems with former President Donald Trump's statement regarding Mexican immigrants being "drug dealers" and "rapists"?

- a) emphasizing the role of authority in maintaining social cohesion
- b) preventing corporate interests from manipulating the media
- c) encouraging people to form their own opinions ✓ correct**
- d) providing evidence that contradicts Trump's statements

Q52. [Multiple Choice]

Which one of the societal benefits of social research seeks to clarify the social and economic impact of a certain type of governmental program?

- a) challenging stereotypes and misinformation
- b) applying it to policy and program evaluation ✓ correct**
- c) sorting fact from fiction
- d) documenting societal transformations

Q53. [Multiple Choice]

According to the text, public knowledge of social science is critical for _____.

- a) developing liberal political orientations
- b) establishing and maintaining traditions
- c) aligning oneself to a political party
- d) maintaining a healthy democracy ✓ correct**

Q54. [Multiple Choice]

The application of sociological research can help us as a society address and better understand _____.

- a) behaviors and psychological disorders
- b) the cycle volcanic eruptions
- c) animal disease transmission to humans
- d) the emergence of inequalities during the COVID-19 pandemic ✓ correct**

True/False (7)

Q55. [True/False]

A new student observes that in her first class, the people sitting in the back row answer most of the questions, so in the next class she sits with the back row, concluding that this is where the smartest students sit. The new student made an overgeneralization.

- a) True ✓ correct**
- b) False

Correct answer: True

Q56. [True/False]

Social science research is the systematic process of data collection for the purpose of supporting authority figures' perspectives.

- a) True
- b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q57. [True/False]

Selective or inaccurate perception is the term for the everyday error that involves unjustifiably concluding that what is true for some cases is true for all cases.

- a) True
- b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q58. [True/False]

Illogical reasoning is the term for the everyday error that involves prematurely jumping to conclusions or arguing on the basis of faulty assumptions.

- a) True ✓ correct
- b) False

Correct answer: True

Q59. [True/False]

Understanding social science research has little value for students outside of class.

- a) True
- b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q60. [True/False]

Social science research that can be replicated producing the same, or similar results as a previous study means that that the previous study's method in collecting data was explicit and transparent.

- a) True ✓ correct
- b) False

Correct answer: True

Q61. [True/False]

Social science research can not only provide evidence that a claim is incorrect, but it can also complicate statements that are overly general.

- a) True ✓ correct
- b) False

Correct answer: True

Essay (4)

Q62. [Essay]

What does it mean to say that sociology is a social science? Define sociology and explain how it is different from the other social sciences—psychology and political science.

Suggested answer: Sample response: Sociology is the scientific study of how society shapes individual people and groups, as well as individual people and groups shape society. Sociology employs the scientific method to study climate change in a different way than psychology and political science. For example, psychology focuses on the individual and less on the broader society. And political science focuses on how climate change impacts the electoral system and suggests policy solutions.

Q63. [Essay]

Using Greta Thunberg's example of spearheading a global warming movement, define the meaning of sociology as a social science and explain how sociology would address the emergence of Greta's activism being influenced and shaped by society. Then, explain how sociology would address Greta's influence on society. Be sure to provide examples for each.

Suggested answer: Sample response: Sociology is the scientific study of how society and human relationships influence each other. With respect to society's impact on Greta, She was exposed to environmental reports, including the social and political landscape, at a young age involving climate change, and lives in a democratic nation that has freedom of speech, etc. And regarding Greta's impact on society, she has influenced society by her boldness and persistence in sharing her concerns about global warming, including speaking at the United Nations, and has won numerous awards.

Q64. [Essay]

Choose three life skill benefits gained from social science learning that you think are the most important to apply in the real world. Be sure to identify and define each life skill and explain why you think it is one of the most important life skills to apply.

Suggested answer: Sample response: The four life skills that social science learning provides are critical thinking, media literacy, civic participation, and using this knowledge in any respective profession. Having a healthy critical mindset means to question "what you know" and "how you know it," especially information coming from authority figures, as well as synthesize information and evaluate competing claims. Doing so challenges the status quo, not taking things for granted, and moving beyond common sense. Another one is media literacy to sort fact from fiction in order not be misled. Having accurate information and knowledge is critical in moving forward or advancing our democratic society. And lastly, citizenship involving being civically mindful and active in doing a cost-benefit analysis of community member's arguments pertaining to their well-being, as well as sharing research knowledge while at work all demonstrate building a healthy democracy.

Q65. [Essay]

With respect to applying the scientific method in sociology, explain what is the difference between objectivity and intersubjectivity. In addition, explain why intersubjectivity is more realistic to achieve for sociologists than objectivity.

Suggested answer: Sample response: The scientific method generates truthful knowledge by starting with theoretical explanations to generate research problems about patterns of social life. Then develop hypotheses to test our theory. The scientific method demands that sociologists collect empirical data—i.e., information that can be observed using our human senses without letting our personal experiences, beliefs, and values interfere with our research findings or conclusions (objectivity). Collecting empirical data in a systematic way—i.e., following strict steps helps researchers develop objectivity. However, intersubjectivity focuses on how multiple sociologists engaged in conversation and collaboration on a research problem to come to a scientific agreement about patterns of social life rather than just relying only on one researcher's observations and interpretations of the empirical data collected.

Hard

Multiple Choice (9)

Q66. [Multiple Choice]

Sociologists examine how people shape society and are shaped by society. Consider this example of environmentalist Greta Thunberg. Greta's activism was shaped as a result of media exposure and living in a democratic nation. According to sociologists, what is the relationship here between society and the individual?

- a) Greta's emotions fueled her efforts to be more active in the environmentalist movement.
- b) Societal or institutional forces impacted Greta's feelings about being concerned about the environment. ✓ correct**
- c) Greta's political ideologies influenced her education and activism in the environmental movement.
- d) Greta's charisma in the movement was contagious and her message uplifted millions of people around the world.

Q67. [Multiple Choice]

A sociologist conducting research about Gen Z's attitudes of the American Dream believes that all teenagers in this generation are lazy entitled narcissists. Due to this assumption, the sociologist assumes that everyone in this birth cohort is lazy entitled narcissists. This is an example of which shortcut?

- a) resistance to change
- b) selective perception
- c) overgeneralization ✓ correct**
- d) illogical reasoning

Q68. [Multiple Choice]

Every time Kristina shared her perspective or answered a question in her sociology class, she always referred back to what her Sunday school teacher taught her about morals and crime. She did pay attention to only those things that she was most familiar with or aligned with her religious beliefs. Which short cut of the mind is Kristina exhibiting?

- a) overgeneralization
- b) selective perception ✓ correct**
- c) illogical reasoning
- d) common sense

Q69. [Multiple Choice]

Amber is a doctoral student in sociology doing research on political movements committing violent acts in the United States. Amber was very careful, transparent, and explicit about the way she collected data for her study. She most likely wanted to be sure that _____.

- a) others could replicate her study ✓ correct**
- b) she proved her theory
- c) she focused on theory rather than methods
- d) her results would be aligned with what she expected

Q70. [Multiple Choice]

Social science research skills can benefit a person who needs to make informed decisions about employability and economic trends by enabling the person to _____.

- a) memorize statistics
- b) recall different job classifications
- c) think critically about economic trends ✓ correct**
- d) develop personal opinions

Q71. [Multiple Choice]

A community is debating a referendum involving building a large shopping center. A local resident is listening to the arguments both in favor and opposed to the development. After gathering the information from multiple sources the resident conducts a “cost-benefit analysis” to form viewpoint and take action. This is an example of which benefit gained from learning about social science research?

- a) documenting societal transformations
- b) citizenship ✓ correct**
- c) working in a career
- d) media illiteracy

Q72. [Multiple Choice]

Thomas received a B.A. in sociology and got a job at his local newspaper organization. Thomas found himself sharing research concerning COVID-19’s impact on communities, especially lower income communities. Even though Thomas did not do the research, how is Thomas benefiting from social science research.

- a) By being a statistician.
- b) By being a data analyst.
- c) By being a communicator. ✓ correct**
- d) By being a data collector.

Q73. [Multiple Choice]

In April 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released data indicating that Black and Latinx Americans were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, with respect to infections and deaths. Social science research focuses its attention on these very critical issues. This is an example of which societal benefit of doing social research?

- a) documenting social inequalities and transformations ✓ correct**
- b) accepting political policies
- c) encouraging stereotypes
- d) advocating for selective perception

Q74. [Multiple Choice]

After completing her degree in sociology, Susan was looking for an opportunity to put her sociology degree into practice, especially what she learned in her environmental sociology class. She was particularly concerned about climate change and decided to become an activist. What is Susan doing with her sociology degree?

- a) aligning yourself with being a politician
- b) becoming more involved with maintaining the status quo
- c) helping spread the message about caring for the environment ✓ correct**
- d) encouraging over-simplistic thinking

Essay (6)

Q75. [Essay]

Identify and explain how the four shortcuts of our human brain can lead to erroneous conclusions of social life.

Suggested answer: Sample response: 1) Overgeneralization is when we assume things are true for some cases it is true for all; 2) Selective or inaccurate perception is choosing to only focus on what aligns with our beliefs; 3) Illogical reasoning is jumping to conclusions based on faulty assumptions; and 4) Resistance to change is to refuse to change your beliefs or perspective in light of new evidence.

Q76. [Essay]

Explain how sociologists apply the scientific method using theory, hypotheses, and data collection.

Suggested answer: Sample response: The scientific method consists of strict steps beginning with a research question or problem involving theoretical explanations about patterns of social life, and then constructing hypotheses involving testable statements making predictions, and collection of empirical data.

Q77. [Essay]

Identify and define four life skill benefits gained from learning social science research.

Suggested answer: Sample response: 1) Healthy skepticism is having a critical mindset to synthesize information and evaluate competing claims. 2) Being media literate to ensure that your news intake is a broad cross-section of various news outlets to address diverse perspectives. 3) Citizenship entails being more active in listening to community members concerns about referendums; and 4) Demonstrating knowledge of research at work.

Q78. [Essay]

Identify and define three societal benefits of social science research.

Suggested answer: Sample response: 1) Documenting social inequalities and societal transformations concerning COVID-19 and racial inequality; 2) Challenging the stereotypes and misinformation, especially involving former president Donald Trump; and 3) inform public policies and programs involving the evaluation of the social and economic impact of governmental policies serving women in poverty or low-income areas.

Q79. [Essay]

Explain how sociology, as a social science, would use the scientific method to overcome our brain's tendency to use shortcuts.

Suggested answer: Sample response: Sociology uses the scientific method to generate truthful knowledge by starting with theoretical explanations to generate research problems about patterns of social life. Then, develop hypotheses to test our theory and then collect empirical data in a systematic way to reduce overgeneralization, selective or inaccurate perception, illogical reasoning, etc. Also, it is important emphasize intersubjectivity involving multiple researchers collaborating on a research problem to reach a scientific agreement.

Q80. [Essay]

Explain how sociology, as a social science, can help strengthen our democracy even while going through a global pandemic.

Suggested answer: Sample response: The social science research documents social inequalities and societal transformations. The collection and application of empirical data by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Bureau of Labor Statistics, and World Health Organization, allows us to identify the uneven toll that the COVID-19 pandemic took/is taking across racial and ethnic groups. The data they provide are pivotal for documenting and understanding the social determinants of health inequities. In doing so, challenges stereotypes and misinformation, especially of Chinese Americans. Governmental policies and CDC guidelines with respect to the distribution of and access to vaccines and health care can be evaluated and then improved, if need to be, to address health inequities.