

## **Nieswiadomy, *Foundations of Nursing Research*, 6/e**

### **Chapter 3**

#### **Question 1**

**Type:** MCSA

The nurse researcher is writing the operational definition of a study variable. What information should be included in this definition?

1. How the variable relates to the hypothesis.
2. How the variable is defined in the study.
3. How the variable will be measured in a study.
4. How the variable relates to the specific group to be studied.

**Correct Answer:** 3

**Rationale 1:** The hypothesis does not include the operational definition of the variables.

**Rationale 2:** This is the conceptual definition.

**Rationale 3:** An operational definition indicates how a variable will be observed or measured in a study.

**Rationale 4:** This is not the purpose of the operational definition.

**Global Rationale:**

**Cognitive Level:** Applying

**Client Need:**

**Client Need Sub:**

**Nursing/Integrated Concepts:** Nursing Process: Planning

**Learning Outcome:** LO 02. Discuss the steps in quantitative research.

#### **Question 2**

**Type:** MCSA

The purpose of a research study is to examine the effects of social support on the psychological health of elderly residents of a nursing home. In this statement, psychological health is which part of the study?

1. Dependent variable.
2. Independent variable.
3. Attribute variable.

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4. Confounding variable.

**Correct Answer:** 1

**Rationale 1:** The presumed effect, or outcome, is psychological health, the dependent variable.

**Rationale 2:** The independent variable is the presumed cause/the manipulation or treatment in a study.

**Rationale 3:** An attribute variable describes the attributes or characteristics of the subjects in a study.

**Rationale 4:** A confounding variable is an extraneous variable that is not controlled in a study.

**Global Rationale:**

**Cognitive Level:** Applying

**Client Need:**

**Client Need Sub:**

**Nursing/Integrated Concepts:** Nursing Process: Planning

**Learning Outcome:** LO 02. Discuss the steps in quantitative research.

**Question 3**

**Type:** MCSA

The study hypothesis is, “Premature infants who receive skin-to-skin tactile stimulation gain weight at a more rapid rate than premature infants who do not receive skin-to-skin tactile stimulation.” What is the independent variable?

1. Premature infants.
2. Weight gain.
3. Rapid weight gain.
4. Skin-to-skin tactile stimulation.

**Correct Answer:** 4

**Rationale 1:** Premature infants are the study population.

**Rationale 2:** Weight gain is the dependent variable.

**Rationale 3:** Rapid weight gain may be an outcome of the independent variable intervention.

**Rationale 4:** The presumed cause, the treatment or intervention, is skin-to-skin stimulation.

**Global Rationale:**

**Cognitive Level:** Applying

**Client Need:**

**Client Need Sub:**

**Nursing/Integrated Concepts:** Nursing Process: Planning

**Learning Outcome:** LO 02. Discuss the steps in quantitative research.

#### **Question 4**

**Type:** MCSA

The nurse researcher is planning how to conduct a quantitative research study. Which portion of the research process is the nurse developing?

1. Research question.
2. Research design.
3. Operational definition of variable.
4. Hypothesis.

**Correct Answer:** 2

**Rationale 1:** The research question is an interrogative statement developed to direct a study.

**Rationale 2:** The research design is the overall plan for the manner in which the study will be conducted.

**Rationale 3:** An operational definition indicates how a variable will be measured in a study.

**Rationale 4:** A hypothesis is a statement of the researcher's expectation about the results of a study.

**Global Rationale:**

**Cognitive Level:** Applying

**Client Need:**

**Client Need Sub:**

**Nursing/Integrated Concepts:** Nursing Process: Planning

**Learning Outcome:** LO 01. List the steps in conducting quantitative research.

#### **Question 5**

**Type:** MCSA

The risk manager has noticed a spike in medication errors among nurses who have worked several consecutive days. What is the first step in conducting research into this phenomenon?

1. Identify the population to be studied.
2. Identify the problem to be studied.

3. Identify the relationship between the variables to be studied.

4. Identify the purpose of the study.

**Correct Answer: 2**

**Rationale 1:** Identification of the population to be studied is a later step in the research process.

**Rationale 2:** Identification and clarification of the problem to be studied is the initial step in the research process. It starts as a general broad area that is narrowed to a specific statement of the problem.

**Rationale 3:** Identification of the relationship between the variables to be studied is a later step in the research process.

**Rationale 4:** Identification of the purpose of the study is a later step in the research process.

**Global Rationale:**

**Cognitive Level:** Applying

**Client Need:**

**Client Need Sub:**

**Nursing/Integrated Concepts:** Nursing Process: Planning

**Learning Outcome:** LO 01. List the steps in conducting quantitative research.

**Question 6**

**Type:** MCSA

Who should make recommendations for how the findings of a research study should be integrated into nursing practice?

1. A panel of experts.

2. The researcher.

3. Nurses who read the study.

4. An evidence-based practice group.

**Correct Answer: 2**

**Rationale 1:** This is not the person *Foundations of Nursing Research* identifies as the person who should make recommendations on how research findings should be integrated into practice.

**Rationale 2:** The person who knows the most about the research is the researcher. This puts the researcher in the prime position to make recommendations about how the findings should be integrated into practice.

**Rationale 3:** This is not the person Nieswiadomy identifies as the person who should make recommendations on how research findings should be integrated into practice.

**Rationale 4:** This is not the person Nieswiadomy identifies as the person who should make recommendations on how research findings should be integrated into practice.

**Global Rationale:**

**Cognitive Level:** Understanding

**Client Need:**

**Client Need Sub:**

**Nursing/Integrated Concepts:** Nursing Process: Planning

**Learning Outcome:** LO 02. Discuss the steps in quantitative research.

**Question 7**

**Type:** MCSA

What term is used to describe concepts that are manipulated, measured, and controlled in a study?

1. Research purpose.
2. Research questions.
3. Research variables.
4. Research attributes.

**Correct Answer:** 3

**Rationale 1:** The research purpose is the reason why the study will be conducted.

**Rationale 2:** Research questions ask about the relationship between study variables.

**Rationale 3:** Research variables are the characteristics or attributes that are measured/controlled in a study.

**Rationale 4:** Research attributes are characteristics of the study subjects.

**Global Rationale:**

**Cognitive Level:** Understanding

**Client Need:**

**Client Need Sub:**

**Nursing/Integrated Concepts:** Nursing Process: Planning

**Learning Outcome:** LO 02. Discuss the steps in quantitative research.

**Question 8**

**Type:** MCSA

The nurse researcher wishes to generalize a study's findings to persons living in the southern United States. The study is being done on persons living in a small town in rural Alabama. Which option reflects the target population of this study?

1. Persons living in the southern United States.
2. Persons living in a small town in rural Alabama.
3. Persons living in the state of Alabama.
4. Persons living in the United States in general.

**Correct Answer:** 1

**Rationale 1:** The target population is made up of a group of people or objects to which the researcher wishes to generalize the findings of a study, in this case, persons living in the southern United States.

**Rationale 2:** This is the accessible population.

**Rationale 3:** This is neither the target population nor the accessible population in this study.

**Rationale 4:** This is neither the target population nor the accessible population in this study.

**Global Rationale:**

**Cognitive Level:** Analyzing

**Client Need:**

**Client Need Sub:**

**Nursing/Integrated Concepts:** Nursing Process: Planning

**Learning Outcome:** LO 02. Discuss the steps in quantitative research.

**Question 9**

**Type:** MCMA

The nurse researcher is completing a review of literature. Why will this work be useful to the researcher as the project continues?

**Standard Text:** Select all that apply.

1. It helps to develop a theoretical or conceptual framework for the study.
2. It helps to identify what is already known on the topic of the study.
3. It assists in the identification of data collection tools to measure the study variables.
4. It determines the purpose of conducting a study.

5. It helps identify the research problem.

**Correct Answer:** 1,2,3

**Rationale 1:** The review of literature helps to determine what knowledge exists of the study topic, helps to develop a theoretical or conceptual framework for the study, and helps the researcher plan study methods.

**Rationale 2:** The review of literature helps to determine what knowledge exists of the study topic, helps to develop a theoretical or conceptual framework for the study, and helps the researcher plan study methods.

**Rationale 3:** The review of literature helps to determine what knowledge exists of the study topic, helps to develop a theoretical or conceptual framework for the study, and helps the researcher plan study methods.

**Rationale 4:** This step occurs before the review of literature.

**Rationale 5:** This step occurs before the review of literature.

**Global Rationale:**

**Cognitive Level:** Applying

**Client Need:**

**Client Need Sub:**

**Nursing/Integrated Concepts:** Nursing Process: Planning

**Learning Outcome:** LO 02. Discuss the steps in quantitative research.

**Question 10**

**Type:** MCSA

The text at the beginning of a research study report reads the following: “Is there a relationship between the number of medication errors made and the number of consecutive days the nurse has worked? This study will try to determine if the number of medication errors made is related to the number of consecutive days the nurse has worked. Medication errors are a serious threat to hospitalized patients.” Which of these statements is the research problem?

1. Is there a relationship between the number of medication errors made and the number of consecutive days the nurse has worked?
2. This study will try to determine if the number of medication errors made is related to the number of consecutive days the nurse has worked.
3. Medication errors are a serious threat to hospitalized patients.
4. None of these statements is a research problem.

**Correct Answer:** 1

**Rationale 1:** The research problem is often an interrogative sentence that asks about the relationship between two variables.

**Rationale 2:** This statement is the purpose of the study.

**Rationale 3:** This is a statement of fact, not a research problem.

**Rationale 4:** The first sentence of the research study report is the research problem, stated as a question.

**Global Rationale:**

**Cognitive Level:** Analyzing

**Client Need:**

**Client Need Sub:**

**Nursing/Integrated Concepts:** Nursing Process: Planning

**Learning Outcome:** LO 02. Discuss the steps in quantitative research.

**Question 11**

**Type:** MCSA

The nurse researcher is conducting the review of literature for a study. How long should the nurse researcher plan to continue this review?

1. Until the problem statement has been written.
2. Until the data collection process begins.
3. Until all data have been collected.
4. Until the data have been analyzed and the results of the study are being written.

**Correct Answer:** 2

**Rationale 1:** The review of the literature should continue past this step.

**Rationale 2:** The review of literature should continue until data collection begins in order to ensure the researcher has as much information as possible and the most up-to-date information on the study topic.

**Rationale 3:** The review of literature should have already been discontinued by this point.

**Rationale 4:** The review of literature should have already been discontinued by this point.

**Global Rationale:**

**Cognitive Level:** Applying

**Client Need:**

**Client Need Sub:**

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**Nursing/Integrated Concepts:** Nursing Process: Planning

**Learning Outcome:** LO 02. Discuss the steps in quantitative research.

**Question 12**

**Type:** MCSA

A nurse researcher is conducting a study on the relationship between medication errors and the number of consecutive days worked by a nurse. One of the assumptions of this study is that medication errors are a serious threat to patients. Which type of assumption is this?

1. A universal assumption.
2. A theoretical assumption.
3. A research-based assumption.
4. A common sense assumption.

**Correct Answer:** 1

**Rationale 1:** Universal assumptions are those beliefs that are assumed to be true by a large percentage of society.

**Rationale 2:** Theoretical and research-based assumptions are the same thing and are assumptions derived from theory or previous research.

**Rationale 3:** Theoretical and research-based assumptions are the same thing and are assumptions derived from theory or previous research.

**Rationale 4:** A common sense assumption would be that the nurses working consecutive days are administering medications.

**Global Rationale:**

**Cognitive Level:** Applying

**Client Need:**

**Client Need Sub:**

**Nursing/Integrated Concepts:** Nursing Process: Planning

**Learning Outcome:** LO 02. Discuss the steps in quantitative research.

**Question 13**

**Type:** MCSA

The nurse researcher has identified that it will be very difficult to control how busy the nursing unit is on days that study data are to be collected and decides not to try to control for this variable. What kind of variable does this situation describe?

1. Independent.
2. Extraneous.
3. Dependent.
4. Empirical.

**Correct Answer: 2**

**Rationale 1:** Independent variables are those thought to “cause” or influence the dependent variable.

**Rationale 2:** Extraneous variables are those over which the researcher either has no control or chooses not to exercise control.

**Rationale 3:** Dependent variables are those thought to be the “effect” or the variable influenced by the manipulation of the independent variable.

**Rationale 4:** Empirical is not a type of variable.

**Global Rationale:**

**Cognitive Level:** Applying

**Client Need:**

**Client Need Sub:**

**Nursing/Integrated Concepts:** Nursing Process: Planning

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**Question 14**

**Type:** MCSA

A student in a research-focused doctoral program would like to play an active role in controlling the research process. Which type of studies would be best for this student?

1. Correlational studies.
2. Comparative studies.
3. Quasi-experimental studies.
4. Methodological studies.

**Correct Answer: 3**

**Rationale 1:** Correlational, comparative, and methodological studies are nonexperimental. The researcher has less control and is less active in this category of study than in experimental studies.

**Rationale 2:** Correlational, comparative, and methodological studies are nonexperimental. The researcher has less control and is less active in this category of study than in experimental studies.

**Rationale 3:** The investigator plays a more active role and has more control over the research situation in experimental research. Quasi-experimental studies are categorized as experimental studies.

**Rationale 4:** Correlational, comparative, and methodological studies are nonexperimental. The researcher has less control and is less active in this category of study than in experimental studies.

**Global Rationale:**

**Cognitive Level:** Applying

**Client Need:**

**Client Need Sub:**

**Nursing/Integrated Concepts:** Nursing Process: Planning

**Learning Outcome:** LO 02. Discuss the steps in quantitative research.

**Question 15**

**Type:** MCSA

In the review of literature, the nurse researcher was unable to find a questionnaire to collect the unique data required for the proposed study. The researcher developed a questionnaire specifically for the study. Once the study began, the researcher discovered that the questionnaire was not supplying the data necessary to answer the study question. How could the researcher have best avoided this situation?

1. Used a preexisting questionnaire, even though it did not collect the correct data.
2. Requested that another nurse read the questionnaire.
3. Done a pilot study with the questionnaire.
4. Altered the questionnaire after data collection started.

**Correct Answer:** 3

**Rationale 1:** If the preexisting questionnaire did not collect the correct data, it is no better than the one the researcher developed.

**Rationale 2:** Having another nurse read the questionnaire might help discover any problems with clarity, but one nurse's review is not sufficient.

**Rationale 3:** Had the researcher done a pilot study, it would have shown the problem with the instrument. This is the best plan for using a newly created instrument.

**Rationale 4:** Once the data collection has started, altering the questionnaire would require that the previous data be discarded in many cases.

**Global Rationale:**

**Cognitive Level:** Applying

**Client Need:**

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