Chapter: Chapter 02: The Scientific Study of People

Multiple Choice

1. The theories and research of scientific personality psychologists differ from those of the ordinary person in being
    a) more general and testable.
    b) more explicit and testable.
    c) more general and valid.
    d) more explicit and valid

    e) Ans: b

2. The text emphasizes that:
    a) theory and research are separate endeavors.
    b) one cannot have "theory-free research" because theory inevitably informs research procedures.
    c) to get a good theory, one first must engage in theory-free research, with the research findings being used to generate a theory.
    d) the measures used to assess personality, in doing personality research, generally are, and should be, theory-free.

    Ans: b

3. In clinical research there is
    a) minimal experimental control and maximum emphasis on naturally occurring phenomena.
    b) maximum experimental control and maximum emphasis on naturally occurring phenomena.
    c) minimal experimental control and minimum emphasis on naturally occurring phenomena.
    d) maximum experimental control and minimum emphasis on naturally occurring phenomena.

    Ans: a

4. The approach to research emphasizing the intensive study of individuals is
    a) correlational.
    b) clinical.
    c) experimental.
    d) naturalistic observation.

    Ans: b

5. In clinical research
    a) many variables can be considered at one time.
    b) behavior can be observed naturally.
    c) verbal reports can be used.
    d) all of the above.

    Ans: d

6. In clinical research, the investigator generally
    a) makes things happen.
    b) studies one person.
    c) studies few aspects of the person.
    d) all of the above.

    Ans: b

7. Manipulating one variable and observing its effects on another variable is characteristic of
    a) clinical research.
    b) experimental research.
    c) correlational research.
    d) none of the above.

    Ans: b

8. The effort to gain control over the variables of interest and establish if-then causal relationships is descriptive of which approach to research?

a) correlational.
b) clinical.
c) naturalistic observation.
d) experimental.

Ans: d

9. Which of the following is not a characteristic distinctive of experimental research?
    a) manipulation of specific variables.
    b) recording of data objectively.
    c) establishment of cause-effect relationships.
    d) all of the above are distinctive.

    Ans: b

10. Which of the following is not a feature of experimental research?
    a) establishment if-then relationships.
    b) establishment consistent individual differences.
    c) establishment experimental control over variables.
    d) All of the above are features of experimental research.

    Ans: b

11. Which of the following is not an important aspect of correlational research?
    a) interest in individual differences.
    b) use of questionnaires.
    c) study of relationships among many variables.
    d) manipulation of variables of interest.

    Ans: d

12. In comparison with case studies, correlational research typically
    a) involves the study of a few individuals.
    b) involves quantitative relationships.
    c) involves interest in cause-effect relationships.
    d) all of the above.

Ans: b

13. Researchers who use the correlational design are primarily interested in
    a) cause-effect relationships.
    b) manipulating variables.
    c) differences among individuals.
    d) all of the above.

    Ans: c

14. Which of the following is not true of correlational research?
    a) patterns of relationships among variables are studied.
    b) characteristics-variables are studied sequentially.
    c) one gives up control over the variables.
    d) All of the above are true of correlational research.

    Ans: b

15. An advantage of personality tests and questionnaires is that they
    a) establish cause-effect relationships.
    b) provide objective data.
    c) provide for the study of many variables.
    d) all of the above.

    Ans: c

16. In correlational research the investigator
    a) determines cause-effect relationships.
    b) determines associations.
    c) both (a) and (b).
    d) neither (a) nor (b).

    Ans: b

17. The study of an Algerian man named Ali, conducted by the psychologist Hubert

Hermans, discussed in the text, was designed to

a) obtain a detailed portrait of the unique individual, Ali.
b) compare Ali to others in the population to determine whether Ali's characteristics were similar to those of other people.
c) test a specific hypothesis about the causal influence of Ali's personal background on his current relationships.
d) all of the above.

Ans: a

18. The study of an Algerian man named Ali, conducted by the psychologist Hubert Hermans, discussed in the text, is an example of:

a) correlational research
b) experimental research
c) a case study
d) none of the above

Ans: c

19. A limitation of case studies is that they

a) provide little information about how an individual is similar to others in the population.
b) may not yield findings that are representative of the population.
c) provide little information about cause–effect relationships.
d) all of the above.

Ans: d

20. The essence of scientific research is

a) replicability of findings.
b) discovery of truth.
c) freedom from bias.
d) absence of error.

Ans: a

21. The text suggests that
    a) theory is more important than research.
    b) research is more important than theory.
    c) theory and research are closely related.
    d) theory and research are separate and independent.

    Ans: c

22. The use of records of past performance illustrates
    a) L-data.
    b) O-data.
    c) T-data.
    d) S-data.

    Ans: a

23. The use of ratings in personality research illustrates
    a) L-data.
    b) O-data.
    c) T-data.
    d) S-data.

    Ans: b

24. O-data provide the opportunity for obtaining
    a) objective data.
    b) self-report data.
    c) checks on subject bias.
    d) checks on observer reliability.

    Ans: d

25. Performance on an intelligence test illustrates
    a) L-data.
    b) O-data.
    c) T-data.

d) S-data.

Ans: c

26. The text suggests that T-data and S-data
    a) tend to agree.
    b) tend to differ.
    c) can be substituted for one another.
    d) are both inferior forms of data.

    Ans: b

27. Ratings of an individual made by parents, friends, or teachers are an example of _____ data.
    a) L-data
    b) O-data
    c) T-data
    d) S-data

    Ans: b

28. The potential for self-perception bias is greatest in
    a) L-data.
    b) O-data.
    c) T-data.
    d) S-data.

    Ans: d

29. Individual differences in performance on an experimental test would be an example of ____ data.
    a) L-data
    b) O-data
    c) T-data
    d) S-data

Ans: c

30. Measures designed to tap beliefs of which people may not be aware are called _____ measures.
    a) implicit
    b) explicit
    c) idiographic
    d) nomothetic

    Ans: a

31. Research on O-data suggests that
    a) some people are more judgable than others.
    b) some characteristics are more observable than others.
    c) highly evaluative characteristics lead to biases.
    d) all of the above.

    Ans: d

32. As discussed in the text, “fixed” measures are ones that
    a) are explicit.
    b) are implicit.
    c) are administered in the same way to all people.
    d) are in some way “unstructured,” allowing some variability in the testing procedure from person to person.

    Ans: c

33. Based on the discussion in the text, “flexible” measures could also be labeled as
    a) idiographic.
    b) nomothetic.
    c) implicit.
    d) explicit.

    Ans: a

34. The term _____ comes from the Greek for the word law, as in general scientific laws.
    a) implicit
    b) explicit
    c) idiographic
    d) nomothetic

    Ans: c

35. A case study method is an example of a _____ technique.
    a) experimental
    b) correlational
    c) idiographic
    d) nomothetic

    Ans: c

36. To obtain a detailed portrait of an individual, it would be best to use a(n) _____ method)
    a) experimental
    b) correlational
    c) idiographic
    d) nomothetic

    Ans: c

37. A(n) _____ detects variations in blood flow, whereas a(n) _____ records electrical activity of neurons.
    a) fMRI; SCR
    b) fMRI; EEG
    c) EEG; SCR
    d) EEG; fMRI

    Ans: d

38. Which of the following qualities do the EEG and fMRI share?
    a) They both detect variations in blood flow.
    b) They both record the electrical activity of neurons.

c) They both indicate which areas of the brain are most active during a given task.
d) They both produce a picture of the brain that enables one to see which areas are active.

Ans: c

39. The term "function" in functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) refers to:
    a) a given task the person might be asked to do
    b) the workings of the fMRI itself
    c) the magnetic properties of blood cells
    d) variations in blood flow

Ans: a

40. If a psychologist believed that people's behavior is shaped largely by thoughts over which they have little control, that psychologists's target for assessment would most likely be:
    a) average behavior
    b) variability in behavior
    c) conscious thought
    d) unconscious mental events

Ans: d

41. The question of whether different items on a test correlate with one another is a question of
    a) validity.
    b) construct validity.
    c) internal reliability.
    d) test-retest reliability.

Ans: c

42. The question of whether a person gets the same score on a test if they take it twice is a question of
    a) validity.

b) construct validity.
c) internal reliability.
d) test-retest reliability.

Ans: d

43. The question of whether a test really measures a psychological quality of interest is a question of
    a) ethics.
    b) construct validity.
    c) internal reliability.
    d) test-retest reliability.

    Ans: b

44. The concept expressing the extent to which our observations are dependable and can be replicated is called
    a) validity.
    b) demand characteristics.
    c) experimenter expectancy effects.
    d) reliability.

    Ans: d

45. Reliability refers to
    a) the utility of observations.
    b) the validity of observations.
    c) the replicability of observations.
    d) all of the above.

    Ans: c

46. Validity refers to
    a) stable observations.
    b) the utility of observations.
    c) the replicability of observations.

d) whether observations relate to the variables of interest.

Ans: d

47. Subjects conforming to what they believe the experimenter expects most illustrates the problem of
    a) validity.
    b) reliability.
    c) demand characteristics.
    d) not paying subjects for participation.

    Ans: c

48. Experimenter expectancy effects represent
    a) an unintended source of error.
    b) an intended influence on subject behavior.
    c) a contribution toward greater reliability.
    d) a contribution toward greater validity.

    Ans: a

49. Cues which are implicit in an experimental setting and which influence a subject's behavior are known as
    a) demand characteristics.
    b) experimental variables.
    c) experimenter bias.
    d) response sets.

    Ans: a

50. Evidence concerning demand characteristics suggests that
    a) subjects are passive respondents.
    b) some subjects have demanding personality traits.
    c) subjects ascribe meaning and purpose to the experimental situation.
    d) subjects can be fooled by the experimenter.

Ans: c

51. The case of "Clever Hans" is
    a) an account of the life and times of a pick-pocket from the Bronx.
    b) an example of demand characteristics.
    c) an example of response style.
    d) an example of an experimenter bias.

Ans: d

52. Which of the following is a potential source of error in research?
    a) acquiescence.
    b) demand characteristics.
    c) expectancy effects.
    d) all of the above.

Ans: d

53. The case of Clever Hans illustrates
    a) experimenter expectancy effects.
    b) response style.
    c) demand characteristics.
    d) subliminal perception.

Ans: a

54. Experimenter expectancy effects are illustrated by
    a) the case of Clever Hans.
    b) the case of Little Hans.
    c) naturalistic observation.
    d) correlational research.

Ans: a

55. Which of the following concepts suggests that the psychological experiment is a form of social interaction?
    a) experimenter expectancy effects.
    b) demand characteristics.
    c) both (a) and (b).
    d) neither (a) nor (b).

    Ans: c

56. Anxiety about conforming to beliefs that others hold about a group of which you are a member is called:
    a) hostility.
    b) unconscious motivation.
    c) stereotyping.
    d) stereotype threat.

    Ans: d

57. Steele's research on stereotype threat is an example of
    a) a case study.
    b) an experiment.
    c) a correlational study.
    d) all of the above.

    Ans: b

58. Steele's research on stereotype threat demonstrated that stereotype threat processes
    a) impair performance.
    b) improve performance by motivating individuals.
    c) have no affect on performance.

    Ans: a

59. Stereotype threat processes have been shown to affect the performance of
    a) members of minority groups.

b) women.
c) a & b.
d) none of the above.

Ans: c

60. Research on personality and health indicates that high levels of heart disease risk factors are associated with high levels of
    a) intelligence.
    b) hostility.
    c) extraversion.
    d) stereotype threat.

    Ans: b

61. Findings of the ‘nun study’, discussed in the text, indicate that the experience of high levels of positive emotions is associated with higher
    a) levels of heart disease.
    b) proneness to injury.
    c) longevity.
    d) depression

    Ans: c

62. The ‘nun study’, discussed in the text, is an example of
    a) a case study.
    b) an experiment.
    c) a correlational study.
    d) all of the above.

    Ans: c

63. The fact that the group data may not reflect individual functioning is a potential argument for the use of
    a) clinical research / case studies.
    b) experimental research.

c) correlational research.
d) none of the above.

Ans: a

64. A potential strength of experimental research is that it
a) establishes associational relationships.
b) fosters demand relationships.
c) establishes causal relationships.
d) fosters expectancy effects.

Ans: c

65. The ability to establish if-then causal relationships is best seen in
a) clinical research.
b) correlational research.
c) naturalistic observation.
d) experimental research.

Ans: d

66. Which of the following is a potential limitation of experimental research?
a) entangled relationships among variables.
b) establishes associational relationships.
c) limited generality of findings due to artificial setting.
d) all of the above.

Ans: c

67. The tendency to answer questions in a consistent way is called
a) dependable style.
b) validity.
c) reliability.
d) response style.

Ans: d

68. Supporters of using verbal self-reports argue that
    a) these are data.
    b) they are reliable.
    c) they are valid.
    d) all of the above.

    Ans: a

69. Problems of response style and social desirability are particularly relevant to
    a) laboratory research.
    b) correlational research.
    c) questionnaires.
    d) naturalistic observation.

    Ans: c

70. Ethics of research involve questions of
    a) requirements of participation.
    b) deception of subjects.
    c) protection of subjects from harm.
    d) all of the above.

    Ans: d

71. The APA principles of ethical research
    a) require recognition of subject rights.
    b) emphasize the importance of accurate presenting of results.
    c) permit the use of deception in research.
    d) all of the above.

    Ans: d

72. The case of Sir Cyril Burt raised the issue of

a) reliability of data.
b) validity.
c) abuse of subjects.
d) data manipulation.

Ans: d

73. Which of the following is not raised as an issue in the ethics of research?
a) potential for lack of valid observations.
b) potential for personal bias.
c) potential for social bias.
d) potential for fraud.

Ans: a

74. A numerical index of the degree to which two variables go together is the
a) correlation coefficient.
b) variance.
c) mean.
d) t-test.

Ans: a

True/False

1. The goal of research is to establish facts and principles that can be interpreted within a broader theoretical framework.

   Ans: True

2. In correlational research, the investigator seeks to establish a relationship between two or more variables that do not readily lend themselves to manipulation and control.

   Ans: True

3. In experimental research the investigator gains control over the variables but gives up establishing if-then causal relationships.

   Ans: False

4. Self-report data and experimental data generally show good agreement with one another.
   Ans: False

5. Personality test items can be influenced by factors such as the phrasing of items and the order of items on a test.

   Ans: True

6. It is possible to make reliable observations that are not valid but not possible to make valid observations that are unreliable.

   Ans: True

7. A strength of clinical research is the ability to establish causal relations between variables.

Ans: False

8. Demand characteristics are characteristics of an experimenter who, without recognizing it, biases the responses of subjects.

Ans: False

9. The use of questionnaires in correlational research helps to establish cause-effect Relationships.

Ans: False

10. Self and observer ratings show good agreement where the characteristics are observable.

Ans: True

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. The text discusses three main approaches to personality research: case studies, experimental studies conducted in laboratory settings, and correlational studies. Discuss the relative strengths and limitations of each.

2. Discuss the concepts of reliability and validity. Define both concepts, note how they are related to one another, and how they relate to the evaluation of a theory.

3. What does the personality psychologist mean by “idiographic” and by “nomothetic” research strategies? Give an example of both types of strategies. Is the idiographic/nomothetic distinction a completely clear, “clean” one, or might research strategies vary in the degree to which they employ nomothetic versus idiographic methods?