

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Ethics in social research:
 - a. is defined as general agreements shared by researchers as to what is proper and improper in the conduct of scientific inquiry
 - b. may stem from religious, political, and pragmatic sources among others
 - c. may vary from one social research community to another
 - d. may vary from one point in time to another
 - e. all of these choices are correct

ANS: E PG: 63-64 TYPE: Factual SOURCE: Pickup

2. The PRIMARY ethical research issue raised by the Milgram study was:
 - a. the willingness of people to harm others when "following orders" required it
 - b. the administering of electrical shocks to the pupils
 - c. the effects of the methods on the pupils
 - d. the effects of the methods on the teacher
 - e. the examination of obedience as a topic for study

ANS: C PG: 79-81 TYPE: Conceptual SOURCE: Pickup

3. Which of the following statements is NOT found in the AAPOR Code of Professional Ethics and Practices?
 - a. We shall maintain the right to approve the release of our findings, whether or not ascribed to us.
 - b. We shall select research tools and methods of analysis because of their special capacity to yield a desired conclusion.
 - c. We shall protect the anonymity of every respondent, unless the respondent waives such anonymity for specified uses.
 - d. We shall not knowingly imply that interpretations should be accorded greater confidence than the data actually warrant.
 - e. All of these choices are cited in the AAPOR Code of Professional Ethics and Practices

ANS: B PG: 76-78 TYPE: Factual SOURCE: Pickup

4. Weber called the lack of intrusion of the researcher's own political position on research:
 - a. value-free sociology
 - b. anonymity
 - c. confidentiality
 - d. the identity of the researcher
 - e. deception

ANS: A PG: 81 TYPE: Factual SOURCE: Pickup

5. When names are removed from questionnaires and are replaced with identification numbers so that only the researcher can later link a response to a particular name, the researcher should tell the respondent that the information is:
 - a. anonymous

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- b. confidential
- c. anonymous and confidential
- d. harmless
- e. none of these choices are correct

ANS: B

PG: 68

TYPE: Applied

SOURCE: Pickup

6. Which of the following variables would be of the LEAST ethical concern to an IRB?
- a. subject's sexual orientation
 - b. subject's age
 - c. subject's criminal history
 - d. subject's drug use
 - e. subject's social security number

ANS: B

PG: 73-75

TYPE: Applied

SOURCE: New

7. The process of debriefing, in the context of research, serves to:
- a. Informing subjects of any potential risks before their participation.
 - b. Checking in periodically with subjects to determine their emotional state.
 - c. Removing identifying information from collected data.
 - d. Interviewing subjects and discussing deception after their participation.
 - e. Intentionally misleading subjects during a research project.

ANS: D

PG: 71

TYPE: Factual

SOURCE: New

8. Which of the following does NOT harm subjects?
- a. Having them face aspects of themselves that they do not normally consider
 - b. Asking them to reveal their unpopular attitudes
 - c. Asking them to identify their deviant behavior
 - d. Allowing them to identify themselves easily in the final report
 - e. Asking them to provide demographic information

ANS: E

PG: 65-66

TYPE: Factual

SOURCE: Modified

9. Ethical obligations to one's colleagues in the scientific community:
- a. require that technical shortcomings and failures of the study be revealed
 - b. encourage researchers to ignore negative findings
 - c. encourage researchers to describe their findings as the product of a carefully preplanned analytical strategy
 - d. require researchers to report only the positive discoveries
 - e. all of these choices are ethical obligations

ANS: A

PG: 71-72

TYPE: Factual

SOURCE: Pickup

10. Which of the following techniques of data collection is MOST likely to make a guarantee of anonymity difficult?
- a. Face-to-face interviews
 - b. Mailed questionnaires
 - c. Secondary data analysis
 - d. Unobtrusive measures

- e. The data collection technique does not affect the guarantee of anonymity
ANS: A PG: 68 TYPE: Applied SOURCE: Pickup
11. Ethical issues are distinguished from political issues in research in that:
- ethics deals more with the substance of research
 - politics deals more with the methods of research
 - there are no formal codes of accepted political conduct whereas there are codes of ethical conduct
 - ethics deals more with the use of research
 - ethical issues and political issues are the same in the research process
- ANS: C PG: 81 TYPE: Factual SOURCE: Pickup
12. Professor Smith decides to track the dating behaviors of college students throughout their college careers. She decides to begin her research using her introductory class. After explaining the study, she assures students that their responses will be kept confidential. The students complete her survey during class. Her research most clearly impinges on:
- deception
 - no harm to participants
 - voluntary participation
 - the value placed on anonymity
 - value-free reports of the data
- ANS: C PG: 64 TYPE: Applied SOURCE: Pickup
13. Which of the following statements is FALSE regarding university IRBs?
- IRBs must review all research
 - IRBs seek to insure that the risks faced by subjects are minimal
 - IRBs may refuse to approve a study
 - IRBs may require a researcher to revise the study design
 - IRBs must review all research seeking federal research funds
- ANS: A PG: 73-75 TYPE: Factual SOURCE: Pickup
14. Which of the following was NOT suggested by Kathleen McKinney as a way to insure the right to privacy in doing research on sex?
- anonymous surveys
 - anonymous interviews
 - disguising the person or group being studied
 - reporting data at the group level
 - all of these choices were suggested by Kathleen McKinney
- ANS: B PG: 72 TYPE: Factual SOURCE: Pickup
15. Which of the following is NOT an essential component of informed consent?
- Disclosure of any potential risks associated with the research
 - A description of the possible benefits to science and society
 - A statement that once they begin participation, they cannot quit
 - A statement that participation in the project is voluntary

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- e. A statement of any provisions for confidentiality or anonymity
ANS: C PG: 67 TYPE: Factual SOURCE: New
16. In which of the following scenarios would confidentiality be of the LEAST concern?:
- a. secondary data analysis
 - b. face-to-face interviews
 - c. paper questionnaires
 - d. telephone interviews
 - e. laboratory experimental research
- ANS: A PG: 68 TYPE: Applied SOURCE: New

TRUE-FALSE QUESTIONS

1. Social scientists are totally objective in their research
ANS: F PG: 81 TYPE: Factual SOURCE: Pickup
2. Anonymity and confidentiality are two different names for the same concept.
ANS: F PG: 68 TYPE: Conceptual SOURCE: New
3. The norm of voluntary participation threatens the social research goal of generalizability.
ANS: T PG: 64 TYPE: Factual SOURCE: Pickup
4. Only experimental research and face-to-face interviews are subject to ethical concerns.
ANS: F PG: 63-71 TYPE: Factual SOURCE: New
5. Once people are told that their participation in a research study is voluntary, there are no ethical problems.
ANS: F PG: 63-71 TYPE: Conceptual SOURCE: Pickup
6. It is often as important to report that two variables are unrelated as to report that they are related.
ANS: T PG: 71-73 TYPE: Factual SOURCE: Pickup
7. Everyone agrees that Tom's research does NOT inflict physical harm on subjects. Tom is pleased by this conclusion because it means that he no longer has to be concerned with the issue of harm to subjects.
ANS: F PG: 68-73 TYPE: Applied SOURCE: Pickup
8. IRBs work to insure that the agency doing the research is protected against lawsuits by human subjects.
ANS: F PG: 73-75 TYPE: Conceptual SOURCE: Pickup
9. Social scientists agree that objectivity is necessary for research.
ANS: F PG: 85-86 TYPE: Factual SOURCE: Pickup

10. Debriefing entails discussing any potential threats to the participants in research before they take part, during the informed consent process.
ANS: F PG: 71 TYPE: Factual SOURCE: New
11. Political issues tend to focus on substance and the use of research.
ANS: T PG: 81 TYPE: Factual SOURCE: Pickup
12. At the conclusion of his research project, Fred interviews his research subjects to discover whether they have problems because of their participation in the research project. Fred is engaged in the debriefing process.
ANS: T PG: 71 TYPE: Applied SOURCE: Pickup
13. Only names, birthdates, and social security numbers are considered identifying data.
ANS: F PG: 68 TYPE: Applied SOURCE: New
14. Any agency wishing to receive federal funds for research must establish an Institutional Review Board (IRB).
ANS: T PG: 73-74 TYPE: Factual SOURCE: Pickup
15. Theo is excited because he received a grant from the National Institute of Health to conduct his study. As an undergraduate student he is exempt from bringing his research before his school's IRB.
ANS: F PG: 73-74 TYPE: Applied SOURCE: Pickup

SHORT ANSWERS/ESSAYS

1. **Choose an ethical issue presented in this chapter, create a research situation where this issue could arise, and tell how you would handle it.**
Responses to the situation will vary.
PG: 81-88 SOURCE: Pickup
2. **To answer this essay students need to read the May 15, 2006 article, entitled “Research Fraud is Harmless and Easy – Until it’s Not” on the Institute for Global Ethics site at: <http://www.globalethics.org/newsline/2006/05/15/>**
When I use articles like this for exam essays, I typically ask students to look at the site before the exam and I give them a hard copy of the text at the exam. After reading the commentary, please answer the following questions: 1) what, if any, ethical standards does this commentary raise in terms of protecting human subjects?, 2) besides ethical standards designed to protect human subjects, what other ethical guidelines, if any, does this commentary raise? 3) What did you think of the concluding statement, “Every researcher in every endeavor needs to remember that big lies start small and start easy”?

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- 1) Assuming that none of the research referred to was actually done on human subjects, no ethical standards involving human subjects were violated.
- 2) The commentary indicates multiple violations of ethical standards concerning the scientific community. For example, Hwang Woo-suk falsified data, he intentionally deceived other researchers, he misled prestigious scientific journals, etc.
- 3) Answers will vary.

PG: 64-73 SOURCE: Pickup

3. **Choose a hypothetical research of your own interest. Rather than focusing upon the ethical concerns before and during the research project, think of what could come after the fact. Why would this be a potential issue? What would you do to avoid these problems?**

Responses should focus on topics such as data collection, manipulation, and analysis. Students should raise issues such as uncorrelated variables, missing data, subject attrition, potential harm and how it was addressed, etc.

PG: Entire chapter SOURCE: New