

Assessment Items for Research Methods for Psychology, exported from Blackboard

1. Learning about research methods is important for ALL of the following reasons EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. engaging in subjective conjecture
- b. becoming a more critical consumer of information
- c. understanding and evaluating the processes involved in arriving at scientific findings
- d. practicing critical thinking and "letting the data speak for itself"

2. The benefits of learning about _____ include understanding and evaluating how scientists arrive at conclusions, becoming a more critical consumer of information, and practicing critical thinking.

- *a. research methods
- b. subjectivity
- c. explanatory styles
- d. psychometrics

3. Taking a class in research methods is important (and required) because it helps students in ALL of the following ways EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. practice subjectivity and belief in anecdotal evidence
- b. become more critical consumers of information
- c. understand and evaluate the processes involved in arriving at scientific findings
- d. practice critical thinking and engage in "letting the data speak for itself"

4. Learning about research methods is important for ALL of the following reasons EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. engaging in subjective conjecture
- b. becoming a more critical consumer of information
- c. understanding and evaluating the processes involved in arriving at scientific findings
- d. practicing critical thinking and "letting the data speak for itself"

5. Which of the following is a non-scientific “way of knowing” that is essentially synonymous with **tenacity**?

- *a. belief perseverance
- b. annoying behavior
- c. the method of authority
- d. the a priori method

6. Our class materials and discussions have included _____ as a non-scientific way of knowing that is especially harmful to (among other things) scientific discovery.

- *a. belief perseverance
- b. peer review
- c. the method of autonomy
- d. primary sources

7. Which one can be classified as a **non**-scientific way of knowing?

- *a. belief perseverance
- b. the scientific method
- c. systematic observation
- d. the method of autonomy

8. Which of the following is a non-scientific “way of knowing” that is essentially synonymous with **tenacity**?

- *a. belief perseverance
- b. the method of authority
- c. the a priori method
- d. the scientific method

9. Research that offers more direct and immediate relevance to the solution of a real-world problem, and often in a very specific context, is considered _____ research.

- *a. applied
- b. basic
- c. mundane
- d. hypothetical

10. The following research project title ("Encouraging Recycling on College Campuses: An Evaluation of a Media Campaign) would be best characterized as _____ research.

- *a. applied
- b. lame
- c. basic
- d. mundane

11. _____ research offers more direct and immediate relevance to the solution of a real-world problem, and often in a very specific context.

- *a. applied
- b. basic
- c. heuristic
- d. technical

12. You are hired by UPS to conduct research on how to best orient the boxes on an assembly line so as to prevent workers (viz., UPS box handlers) from getting paper cuts or other more serious injuries. Your research would best be classified as _____.

- *a. applied
- b. basic
- c. fundamental
- d. ancillary

13. Which of the following options lists the main goals of psychological research?

- *a. describe, explain, predict, control/change
- b. control/change, describe, eliminate, delineate
- c. prescribe, medicate, control/change, eliminate
- d. describe, calibrate, control/change, eliminate

14. Which ONE of the following is not one of the main goals of research in psychology?

- *a. disseminate
- b. change/control
- c. explain or predict
- d. describe

15. Which ONE of the following is not one of the main goals of research in psychology?

- *a. rationalize
- b. change/control
- c. explain or predict
- d. describe

16. Which of the following options lists the main goals of psychological research?

- *a. describe, explain, predict, control/change
- b. describe, eliminate, delineate, control/change
- c. prescribe, medicate, eliminate, control/change
- d. describe, premeditate, disseminate, control/change

17. Theories are the broader aspect of research from which we can develop a more specific _____. This is what is actually tested in a research study.

- *a. hypothesis
- b. model
- c. fact
- d. law

18. A _____ is a tentative explanation for an observation, phenomenon, or scientific problem that can be tested by further investigation.

- *a. hypothesis
- b. theory
- c. fact
- d. assertion

19. A _____ is relatively simple and more limited in scope as compared to a theory.

- *a. hypotheses
- b. non-scientific ways of knowing
- c. models
- d. laws

20. Scientific _____ are what we are testing in a research study. These must be stated in a format that allows them to be rejected.

- *a. hypotheses
- b. theories
- c. laws
- d. models

21. A good theory should be _____. All of the following options work here EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. both qualitative and quantitative
- b. parsimonious and testable
- c. able to predict new phenomena
- d. able to account for much of the data and well-established findings within its domain

22. Whether a theory endures or not depends upon a number of factors. These include ALL of the following EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. ability to nullify correlations between variables
- b. ability to account for much of the existing data within its domain
- c. testability and parsimony
- d. ability to predict novel events or new phenomena

23. A good theory should be _____. All of the following options work here EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. able to validate new independent and dependent variables
- b. testable and parsimonious
- c. able to predict new phenomena
- d. able to account for much of the data and well-established findings within its domain

24. Whether a theory endures or not depends upon a number of factors. These include ALL of the following EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. ability to produce publishable findings
- b. ability to account for much of the existing data within its domain
- c. testability and parsimony
- d. ability to predict novel events or new phenomena

25. There are a number of sources of research ideas that have been discussed in class and/or presented in our course materials. Which ONE of the following is NOT one of those sources of research ideas? Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. an exploration of physical laws
- b. published research reports and/or your own previous or ongoing research
- c. casual observations and/or such things as social issues, stereotypes, bias or common beliefs
- d. the need to solve a real-world problem (viz., applied issues)

26. We have discussed all of the following as good sources of research questions EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. generating non-empirical questions
- b. your own previous or ongoing research and/or published research reports
- c. such things as social issues, stereotypes and/or casual observations
- d. the need to solve practical problems

27. Three (3) of the following options are good sources of research questions that have been discussed and/or presented in your course materials. Which ONE of these does not belong in this list?

- *a. an examination of non-scientific models
- b. published research reports and/or your own previous or ongoing research
- c. casual observations and/or such things as social issues, stereotypes, bias or common beliefs
- d. the need to solve a real-world problem (viz., applied issues)

28. There are a number of sources of research ideas that have been discussed in class and/or presented in our course materials. Which ONE of the following is NOT one of those sources of research ideas? Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. asking non-empirical questions
- b. your own previous or ongoing research and/or published research reports
- c. social issues, stereotypes, bias or common beliefs and/or casual observations
- d. the need to solve a real-world or everyday problem

29. It is important to conduct a _____ when you are designing a research study.

- *a. literature review
- b. prospectus
- c. peer review
- d. self-test

30. *PsychInfo* is often used to find resources when designing a study in order to conduct a _____.

- *a. literature review
- b. prospectus
- c. peer review
- d. self-test

31. When you are designing your research study, your _____ involves locating, obtaining, reading and evaluating the research in your area of interest.

- *a. literature review
- b. prospectus
- c. peer review
- d. self-test

32. Conducting a _____ is especially helpful during the design phase of your research, as it can aid in your decisions about what variables to include and how to measure them, as well as what materials or procedures to use.

- *a. literature review
- b. prospectus
- c. peer review
- d. self-test

33. We need _____ in psychological research so that we know exactly what researchers are referring to as they aim to measure psychological phenomena.

- *a. operational definitions
- b. extraneous definitions
- c. confounding variables
- d. no-nonsense definitions

34. The statement of procedures the researcher is using in order to measure a specific variable in their study is called a(n) _____.

- *a. operational definition
- b. subjective conjecture
- c. no-nonsense definition
- d. expert protocol

35. A(n) _____ is the statement of procedures the researcher is going to use in order to measure a specific variable in their study.

- *a. operational definition
- b. extraneous definition
- c. empirical definition
- d. no-nonsense definition

36. We need _____ in psychological research so that we know exactly what researchers are referring to as they aim to measure psychological phenomena.

- *a. operational definitions
- b. extraneous definitions
- c. confounding definitions
- d. no-nonsense definitions

37. Developing good research questions often involves ALL of the following EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. asking extraneous questions
- b. asking empirical questions
- c. asking answerable questions
- d. asking important questions

38. Developing good research questions often involves ALL of the following EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. asking fundamental attributions
- b. asking empirical questions
- c. asking answerable questions
- d. asking important questions

39. Developing good research questions often involves ALL of the following EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. asking confounding questions
- b. asking empirical questions
- c. asking answerable questions
- d. asking important questions

40. Which of the following items provides the full list of the important aspects of developing good research questions?

- *a. asking answerable questions, asking important questions, asking empirical questions
- b. asking questions that cannot be answered by scientific means, asking questions of experts, asking questions that involve subjective conjecture
- c. asking questions that have firmly established answers, asking extraneous questions, generating confounds
- d. asking confounding questions, asking non-empirical questions, asking questions that have firmly established answers

41. Which of the following is the CORRECT order of the main sections of an APA formatted research paper?

- *a. Literature Review/Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, References
- b. References, Methods, Results, Literature Review/Introduction, Discussion
- c. Discussion, Literature Review/Introduction, Methods, Results, References
- d. Literature Review/Introduction, Results, Methods, Discussion, References

42. The second major section of an APA formatted research paper is the _____.

- *a. methods
- b. literature review or introduction
- c. discussion
- d. results

43. The third major section of an APA formatted research paper is the _____.

- *a. results
- b. literature review or introduction
- c. discussion
- d. methods

44. Which of the following is the CORRECT order of the main sections of an APA formatted research paper?

- *a. Literature Review/Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, References
- b. References, Methods, Results, Literature Review/Introduction, Discussion
- c. Discussion, Literature Review/Introduction, Methods, Results, References
- d. Literature Review/Introduction, Results, Methods, Discussion, References

45. The **introduction section** of an APA formatted research paper contains ALL of the following EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. a description of the participants and procedure of the current study
- b. a statement of purpose
- c. the hypothesis/hypotheses of the current study
- d. findings from prior research studies

46. The **introduction section** of an APA formatted research paper contains ALL of the following EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. all relevant data analyses, and a description of any tables or figures containing data from the current study
- b. a statement of purpose
- c. the hypothesis/hypotheses of the current study
- d. findings from prior research studies

47. The _____ section of an APA formatted research paper contains a statement of purpose, findings from prior studies, and the hypothesis/hypotheses of the current study.

- *a. Introduction
- b. Results
- c. Methods
- d. Discussion

48. The **introduction section** of an APA formatted research paper contains ALL of the following EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. a description of the participants of the current study
- b. a statement of purpose of the current study
- c. the hypothesis/hypotheses of the current study
- d. findings from prior research studies

49. **Correlational designs** are best used in ALL of the following cases EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE of these does not belong?

- *a. when you wish to explore cause-and-effect relationships
- b. when manipulating variables of interest is impossible or unethical
- c. when you are interested in relating naturally occurring variables
- d. In the early, more exploratory stages of research

50. A(n) _____ research design is often used when you are doing more exploratory research, when manipulating variables of interest is impossible or unethical, or when you are interested in relating naturally occurring variables.

- *a. correlational
- b. experimental
- c. phenomenological
- d. paranormal

51. **Correlational designs** are best used in ALL of the following cases EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE of these does not belong?

- *a. when you are able to control many extraneous variables
- b. when manipulating variables of interest is impossible or unethical
- c. when you are interested in relating naturally occurring variables
- d. In the early, more exploratory stages of research

52. **Correlational designs** are best used in ALL of the following cases EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE of these does not belong?

- *a. when you wish to explore cause-and-effect relationships
- b. when manipulating variables of interest is impossible or unethical
- c. when you are interested in relating naturally occurring variables
- d. In the early, more exploratory stages of research

53. To be considered a **true experiment**, the study must involve ALL of the following EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. measuring multiple dependent variables
- b. at least one independent variable
- c. random assignment of participants to conditions
- d. at least one dependent variable

54. Manipulation of an independent variable, measurement of a dependent variable, and random assignment of participants to conditions are three defining features of _____.

- *a. a true experiment
- b. a correlational design
- c. an observational study
- d. a naturalistic design

55. To be considered a **true experiment**, the study must involve ALL of the following EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. three or more groups of equal numbers of males and females
- b. at least one independent variable
- c. random assignment of participants to conditions
- d. at least one dependent variable

56. To be considered a **true experiment**, the study must involve ALL of the following EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. manipulating multiple independent variables
- b. at least one independent variable
- c. random assignment of participants to conditions
- d. at least one dependent variable

57. The disadvantages of **experimental research** include ALL of the following EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does NOT BELONG?

- *a. it cannot identify cause-effect relationships
- b. it often involves highly controlled or artificial conditions
- c. its findings may be hard to generalize beyond the current study
- d. it may not be possible to conduct this kind of study due to ethical concerns

58. A limitation of _____ research is that it is often more artificial, and findings can be hard to generalize beyond the current study.

- *a. experimental
- b. observational
- c. correlational
- d. naturalistic

59. A disadvantage of _____ research is that it often involves highly controlled/artificial conditions and its findings may not be as generalizable.

- *a. experimental
- b. observational
- c. correlational
- d. naturalistic

60. The disadvantages of **experimental research** include ALL of the following EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does NOT BELONG?

- *a. it cannot identify cause-effect relationships
- b. it often involves highly controlled or artificial conditions
- c. its findings may be hard to generalize beyond the current study
- d. it may not be possible to conduct this kind of study due to ethical concerns

61. _____ is the ability of your research design to test the hypothesis(es) that it was designed to test.

- *a. internal validity
- b. external validity
- c. ecological validity
- d. face validity

62. _____ refers to the ability of your research design to appropriately test your stated hypotheses.

- *a. internal validity
- b. external validity
- c. ecological validity
- d. face validity

63. The ability of your research design to appropriately test your hypotheses is known as its _____.

- *a. internal validity
- b. external validity
- c. ecological validity
- d. face validity

64. _____ is the ability of your research design to test the hypothesis(es) that it was designed to test.

- *a. internal validity
- b. external validity
- c. ecological validity
- d. face validity

65. A _____ is essentially an extraneous variable that changed along with the levels of your independent variable. In this case, the effects of these variables

cannot be 'disentangled' to say what caused the observed variation in the dependent variable.

- *a. confounding variable
- b. extraneous variable
- c. control variable
- d. measured variable

66. In an experiment, whenever two or more variables combine in such a way that their effects cannot be separated, a _____ exists.

- *a. confounding variable
- b. extraneous variable
- c. control variable
- d. dependent variable

67. A _____ is a variable that changes along with your independent variable.

- *a. confounding variable
- b. extraneous variable
- c. control variable
- d. dependent variable

68. A _____ is essentially an extraneous variable that changed along with the levels of your independent variable. In this case, the effects of these variables cannot be 'disentangled' to say what caused the observed variation in the dependent variable.

- *a. confounding variable
- b. extraneous variable
- c. control variable
- d. measured variable

69. The extent to which a measuring instrument measures what it was designed to measure is called _____.

- *a. validity
- b. reliability
- c. accuracy
- d. generalizability

70. _____ refers to how well a test measures what it claims to assess.

- *a. validity
- b. reliability
- c. accuracy
- d. generalizability

71. How well a measure assesses what it was designed to assess refers to its _____.

- *a. validity
- b. reliability
- c. accuracy
- d. generalizability

72. The extent to which a measuring instrument measures what it was designed to measure is called _____.

- *a. validity
- b. reliability
- c. accuracy
- d. generalizability

73. The _____ scale of measurement is the most basic and involves categorical information. Its values often come from 'dummy coding' and cannot be added, subtracted, multiplied or divided.

- *a. nominal
- b. ordinal
- c. interval
- d. ratio

74. The **nominal scale of measurement** has ALL of the following features/limitations EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. it is the highest level of measurement, as it offers the most fine-grained level of detail
- b. it is the lowest level of measurement, as it involves only categorical information
- c. its values often come from 'dummy coding'
- d. its values cannot be added, subtracted, multiplied or divided

75. The **nominal scale of measurement** has ALL of the following features/limitations EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. the spacing between values along the scale is known
- b. it is the lowest level of measurement, as it involves only categorical information
- c. its values often come from 'dummy coding'
- d. its values cannot be added, subtracted, multiplied or divided

76. The _____ scale of measurement is the most basic and involves categorical information. Its values often come from 'dummy coding' and cannot be added, subtracted, multiplied or divided.

- *a. nominal
- b. ordinal
- c. interval
- d. ratio

77. ALL of the following are types of **dependent variables** EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. anatomical
- b. physiological
- c. behavioral
- d. self-report and implicit

78. ALL of the following are types of **dependent variables** EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. extraneous
- b. physiological
- c. behavioral
- d. self-report and implicit

79. ALL of the following are types of **dependent variables** EXCEPT ONE. Which ONE does not belong?

- *a. operational
- b. physiological
- c. behavioral
- d. self-report and implicit

80. The basic kinds of _____ include physiological, behavioral, self-report, and implicit.

- *a. dependent variables
- b. independent variables
- c. extraneous variables
- d. confounding variables

81. _____ refer to an experimental artifact where participants form an interpretation of the experiment's purpose and subconsciously change their behavior to fit that interpretation.

- *a. demand characteristics
- b. experimental realisms
- c. mundane realisms
- d. fundamental attributions

82. _____ occur when participants try to make sense of the research experiment and act accordingly to support the goals of the research.

- *a. demand characteristics
- b. experimental realisms
- c. mundane realisms
- d. fundamental attributions

83. _____ are an important issue, as participants may behave in a certain way in order to support the hypothesis of the study; this makes results less valid.

- *a. demand characteristics
- b. experimental realisms
- c. independent variables
- d. fundamental attributions

84. _____ refer to an experimental artifact where participants form an interpretation of the experiment's purpose and subconsciously change their behavior to fit that interpretation.

- *a. demand characteristics
- b. experimental realisms
- c. extraneous variables
- d. fundamental attributions

85. (A) _____ is (are) a subset of individuals who will actually participate in your study; they are chosen from a group that is of interest to the current study.

- *a. sample
- b. population
- c. subpopulation
- d. pseudo-subjects

86. A comparatively smaller number of individuals drawn from a larger group for inclusion in a study is called (a) _____.

- *a. sample
- b. population
- c. subpopulation
- d. pseudo-subjects

87. (A) _____ is a small proportion of individuals selected for inclusion in a study. This group is selected from a larger group of all possible individuals making up a group of interest for that study.

- *a. sample
- b. population
- c. subpopulation
- d. pseudo-subjects

88. The term _____ is used to refer to the smaller group of individuals who actually participate in a research study.

- *a. sample
- b. population
- c. subpopulation
- d. pseudo-subjects

89. _____ refers to the issue in human research that those who agree to participate in studies may not fully represent the general population.

- *a. volunteer bias
- b. artificialism
- c. field research
- d. generalization

90. Imagine a website that asks people to participate in a survey on a controversial topic (e.g., the death penalty). From a research standpoint, we should be concerned since this kind of data collection would likely involve _____ and participants may not represent the full range of individuals and their beliefs on this issue.

- *a. volunteer bias
- b. artificialism
- c. double-blind techniques
- d. generalization

91. Researchers as well as 'consumers' of research should watch carefully for _____ so that they are not drawing (potentially flawed) conclusions from data sets in which not all portions of the population are represented.

- *a. volunteer bias
- b. artificialism
- c. double-blind studies
- d. generalization

92. Imagine a TV or radio program that asks the audience to call-in to participate in a survey on a controversial topic (e.g., gun control). From a research standpoint, we should be concerned since this kind of data collection would likely involve _____ and participants may not represent the full range of individuals and their beliefs on this issue.

- *a. volunteer bias
- b. artificialism
- c. double-blind techniques
- d. generalization

93. If your research participants are misinformed or misled about the true purpose of your study, your research involves _____.

- *a. deception
- b. confounding
- c. artificialism
- d. debriefing

94. Actively misleading participants or purposely withholding information from participants would be considered _____.

- *a. deception
- b. confounding

- c. artificialism
- d. debriefing

95. If your research involves misrepresenting the purposes of your study to your participants, your research involves _____.

- *a. deception
- b. confounding
- c. artificialism
- d. pseudoscience

96. If your research involves giving participants misleading explanations of research equipment or procedures, this would be considered _____.

- *a. deception
- b. confounding
- c. artificialism
- d. pseudoscience