

Test your knowledge and understanding: Methodology

Questions based on chapter 11 of *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives Student Handbook*

- 1 Which two of these statements would positivists agree with?**
 - a Human behaviour is shaped by external stimuli
 - b Human behaviour is unpredictable
 - c There are no such things as social facts
 - d Sociology should be scientific
- 2 Which one of these statements is true?**
 - a Phenomenologists do not believe it is possible to objectively classify the social world
 - b Symbolic interactionists believe it is impossible to explain human behaviour
 - c Weber believes there are no facts about social life
 - d Herbert Blumer does not believe that you can understand the viewpoint of other human beings
- 3 The type of sampling in which every member of the relevant population has an equal chance of being selected is called:**
 - a Random sampling
 - b Snowball sampling
 - c Quota sampling
 - d Stratified sampling
- 4 Which one of these statements is false?**
 - a Telephone surveys tend not to be representative of the whole population
 - b Postal questionnaires avoid interviewer bias
 - c Postal questionnaires usually have a high response rate
 - d Fixed-choice questions make it easy to quantify data from questionnaires
- 5 Which one of the following would not be an example of interviewer bias?**
 - a The interviewee forgets some information
 - b The interviewee is influenced by the gender of the interviewer
 - c The interviewee gives the answer they believe the interviewer would most like to hear
 - d The interviewer unintentionally puts ideas into the interviewee's head
- 6 Which two of these statements are correct?**
 - a Interviews are one of the most flexible research methods
 - b Positivists believe that unstructured interviews provide the most reliable data
 - c Interviews are only used by interpretivist sociologists
 - d Interviews generally use larger samples than participant observation
- 7 Which of these is not a secondary source?**
 - a Official statistics
 - b A personal diary
 - c An interview
 - d A government report
- 8 Conflict theorists tend to see official statistics as:**
 - a A reliable and valid representation of social life
 - b Based on the personal opinions of officials
 - c Reflecting ideological frameworks
 - d Of little interest to sociologists
- 9 Triangulation refers to:**
 - a Research where three respondents are used
 - b A type of longitudinal study
 - c The process of interpreting qualitative data
 - d The use of several research methods in one study to check the data
- 10 The different possible causes examined in experiments are called:**
 - a Independent variables
 - b Dependant variables
 - c Controls
 - d Laboratories
- 11 Which of the following is not an ETHICAL issue:**
 - a Informed consent
 - b Reliability
 - c Invasion of privacy
 - d Confidentiality
- 12 The type of validity that concerns whether theories apply in everyday settings is known as:**
 - a Measurement validity
 - b Internal validity
 - c External validity
 - d Ecological validity
- 13 A list from which a sample is drawn is known as:**
 - a A sampling unit
 - b A sampling frame
 - c A population
 - d A cross-section
- 14 A research method that gets close to the real social world is sometimes described as which of the following?**
 - a Genuine
 - b Original
 - c Naturalistic
 - d Organic
- 15 Which of the following is LEAST likely to use participant observation as a research method?**
 - a A positivist
 - b An interpretivists
 - c A symbolic interactionist
 - d A feminist

16 Which of the following is an advantage of longitudinal research?

- a** It is quick and easy to carry out
- b** The participants won't know they are being studied
- c** The sample size is unlikely to fall
- d** You don't have to recall events retrospectively

17 Quantitative analysis of the content of the media is known as:

- a** Thematic analysis
- b** Textual analysis
- c** Formal analysis
- d** Audience analysis

18 According to John Scott, whether an author of a secondary document was sincere in trying to provide a true account of something is an issue of:

- a** Authenticity
- b** Credibility
- c** Representativeness
- d** Meaning

19 According to Stuart Stein the main problem with using the internet as a secondary source is:

- a** The limited range of information
- b** Problems of access
- c** The cost
- d** The lack of editing or review

20 An advantage of participant observation is:

- a** It is easy to analyse the data
- b** It is possible to generalise from the findings
- c** The researcher can develop a greater understanding of subjects
- d** The researcher may go native

21 Realists believe that:

- a** It is possible and desirable for sociology to be scientific
- b** It is possible but undesirable for sociology to be scientific
- c** It is impossible but desirable for sociology to be scientific
- d** Sociologists have nothing to learn from scientists

22 Which one of these perspectives has often been seen as reflecting conservative values?

- a** Feminism
- b** Weberian sociology
- c** Functionalism
- d** Interactionism

23 Which one of these statements would Popper agree with?

- a** No theory can be seen as definitively true as it may be proved wrong in the future
- b** Scientists can discover the absolute truth
- c** All sociology is scientific
- d** It is not desirable for sociology to be scientific

24 Which one of these approaches does Oakley advocate in feminist research?

- a** Researchers should be objective
- b** Researchers should be collaborative
- c** Researchers should keep their distance from subjects
- d** Researchers should put reliability before validity

25 Postmodern methodology can be criticized because:

- a** It is too scientific
- b** It cannot be used to study historical societies
- c** It is too relativistic
- d** It doesn't allow you to understand the world from the viewpoint of those being studied

26 Reflecting upon the social world with the intention of changing it is known as:

- a** Praxis
- b** Criticism
- c** Deconstruction
- d** Reflexivity

27 Which sociologist introduced the distinction between reconstructed logics and logics in use?

- a** Michael Lynch
- b** Kaplan
- c** Popper
- d** Kuhn

28 Which of the following terms is used by Kuhn to denote a complete theory or framework in science?

- a** Paradigm
- b** Perspective
- c** Approach
- d** Metatheory

29 In arguing that fact and value cannot be separated in sociology Gouldner compares sociology to a:

- a** Phoenix
- b** Unicorn
- c** Bull
- d** Minotaur

30 Which of the following believes that values are bound to have some influence on the production of sociological knowledge?

- a** Comte
- b** Weber
- c** Marx
- d** Durkheim

Answers

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 <i>a & b</i> | 16 <i>d</i> |
| 2 <i>a</i> | 17 <i>c</i> |
| 3 <i>a</i> | 18 <i>b</i> |
| 4 <i>c</i> | 19 <i>d</i> |
| 5 <i>a</i> | 20 <i>c</i> |
| 6 <i>a & d</i> | 21 <i>a</i> |
| 7 <i>c</i> | 22 <i>c</i> |
| 8 <i>c</i> | 23 <i>a</i> |
| 9 <i>d</i> | 24 <i>b</i> |
| 10 <i>a</i> | 25 <i>c</i> |
| 11 <i>b</i> | 26 <i>d</i> |
| 12 <i>d</i> | 27 <i>b</i> |
| 13 <i>b</i> | 28 <i>a</i> |
| 14 <i>c</i> | 29 <i>d</i> |
| 15 <i>a</i> | 30 <i>b</i> |