Making Sense of the Social World 7th edition Chambliss Test Bank

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Making Sense of the Social World (7th)

ISBN 9781071913017 | Chapter 1: Science, Society, and Social Research

Total Questions: 62

Easy

Multiple Choice (15)

Q1. *[Multiple Choice]*

What is the strongest influence on our everyday reasoning on social issues?

a) our prior experiences and orientations ✓ correct
b) the decisions of the state
c) the guidance of our parents
d) the will of transcendental entities

Q2. *[Multiple Choice]*

People who refuse to vaccinate themselves or their children for nonreligious reasons base their argument on obscure theories while ignoring contemporary consensus and empirical evidence supporting vaccinations. People who actively oppose vaccinations for these reasons are engaging in _____.

a) selective observation
b) generalizability
c) illogical reasoning ✓ correct
d) resistance to change

Q3. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which statement best defines social science?

a) application of logic evaluation and systematic methods to the study of human social reality ✓ correct
b) application of psychological techniques on social phenomena
c) attempt to achieve certainty in observing social reality
d) assumption that social phenomena resemble biological and chemical phenomena

Q4. *[Multiple Choice]*

Social science combats the error of selective observation with _____.

a) using systematic procedures for selecting individuals to study
b) using explicit criteria for establishing causality
c) requiring systematic measurement and sampling ✓ correct
d) using empirical evidence

Q5. *[Multiple Choice]*

Social science overcomes the reliance on tradition or unquestioning respect for authority by _____.

a) using systematic procedures for selecting individuals to study
b) using explicit criteria for establishing causality
c) requiring systematic measurement and sampling
d) using empirical evidence ✓ correct

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Q6. *[Multiple Choice]*

Ultimately, _____ is the goal of social science research.

a) assessing causality
b) evaluation ✓ correct
c) prescription
d) proscription

Q7. *[Multiple Choice]*

_____ research is designed to identify causes and effects.

a) Descriptive
b) Exploratory
c) Evaluation
d) Explanatory ✓ correct

Q8. *[Multiple Choice]*

_____ research can be used to describe the impact of social programs.

a) Descriptive
b) Exploratory
c) Evaluation ✓ correct
d) Explanatory

Q9. *[Multiple Choice]*

_____ research suggests how social phenomena (such as neighborhood characteristics) affect other social phenomena (such as youth outcomes).

a) Descriptive
b) Exploratory
c) Evaluation
d) Explanatory ✓ correct

Q10. *[Multiple Choice]*

When the findings of a study accurately represent empirical reality, the results are _____.

a) valid ✓ correct
b) experimental
c) subgroups
d) sampled

Q11. *[Multiple Choice]*

When variables are properly defined as well as measured accurately, the study has _____.

a) external validity ✓ correct
b) internal validity
c) sampling
d) measurement validity

Q12. *[Multiple Choice]*

Internal validity is also referred to as _____.

a) generalizability
b) causal validity ✓ correct
c) measurement validity
d) sample generalizability

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Q13. *[Multiple Choice]*

_____ refers to the ability of a study to inform us about persons, places, or events that were *not* directly studied.

a) Validity
b) Illogical reasoning
c) Descriptive research
d) Generalizability ✓ correct

Q14. *[Multiple Choice]*

A measurement is considered valid when it _____.

a) makes logical sense to respondents
b) corresponds to an accepted dictionary definition
c) yields the same score when applied to the same phenomena
d) measures what the researcher intends to measure ✓ correct

Q15. *[Multiple Choice]*

When the results of a study hold true for multiple populations, the study has _____.

a) cross-population generalizability ✓ correct
b) measurement validity
c) sample generalizability
d) internal validity

True/False (8)

Q16. *[True/False]*

Overgeneralization occurs when people conclude that what is true for some cases is true for all cases.

a) True ✓ correct
b) False

Correct answer: True

Q17. *[True/False]*

Illogical reasoning occurs when people choose to look only at things that are in line with their beliefs.

a) True
b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q18. *[True/False]*

Inaccurate observation is the term for the everyday error that involves unjustifiably concluding that what is true for some cases is true for all cases.

a) True
b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q19. *[True/False]*

Illogical reasoning is the term for the everyday error that involves prematurely jumping to conclusions or arguing on the basis of invalid assumptions.

a) True ✓ correct
b) False

Correct answer: True

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Q20. *[True/False]*

A study that seeks to explain cause and effect is descriptive research.

a) True

b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q21. *[True/False]*

Exploratory research seeks to find out what meanings people give to their actions and interactions in social contexts.

a) True ✓ correct

b) False

Correct answer: True

Q22. *[True/False]*

Explanatory research focuses on identifying causes and effects of social phenomena.

a) True ✓ correct

b) False

Correct answer: True

Q23. *[True/False]*

Sample generalizability occurs when a conclusion based on a population holds true for a sample from a different population.

a) True

b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Medium

Multiple Choice (15)

Q24. *[Multiple Choice]*

While visiting another country a tourist had an unpleasant experience with a taxi driver. As a result they decided that taxi drivers in that country are rude and mean to visitors. The tourist is committing which common error in everyday reasoning?

a) selective or inaccurate observation

b) overgeneralization ✓ correct

c) illogical reasoning

d) resistance to change

Q25. *[Multiple Choice]*

In the 1930s French military officers refused to consider the independent use of armored tanks, preferring to keep them in an infantry support role. This was despite indications that the future of warfare would see tanks replacing calvary in independent roles. This behavior is an example of which common error in social reasoning?

a) overgeneralization

b) selective observation

c) illogical reasoning

d) resistance to change ✓ correct

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Q26. *[Multiple Choice]*

Social science reduces the likelihood of overgeneralization by _____.

a) using systematic procedures for selecting individuals to study ✓ correct
b) using explicit criteria for establishing causality
c) requiring systematic measurement and sampling
d) using empirical evidence

Q27. *[Multiple Choice]*

According to Adler and Adler (2000) how can an organization foster belonging, loyalty, and integration into the group?

a) resist change and honor tradition
b) unify in opposition to something ✓ correct
c) cultivate an environment of extreme competitiveness
d) adhere to a strict hierarchy

Q28. *[Multiple Choice]*

How does social science prevent illogical reasoning?

a) using systematic procedures for selecting a representative sample
b) using explicit criteria for establishing causality ✓ correct
c) requiring systematic measurement and sampling
d) using empirical evidence

Q29. *[Multiple Choice]*

When the state approved stronger penalties for drunk driving, including the automatic suspension of driving privileges, the number of highway deaths related to drunk driving decreased. Which type of research is required to obtain these findings?

a) descriptive
b) exploratory
c) explanatory
d) evaluation ✓ correct

Q30. *[Multiple Choice]*

Findings from a recent _____ study indicated that education was an important predictor in the number of hours of television watched.

a) descriptive
b) exploratory
c) explanatory ✓ correct
d) evaluation

Q31. *[Multiple Choice]*

Both explanatory and evaluation research studies are concerned with the causes and effects of social phenomena. The difference between them is that evaluation research focuses on the _____.

a) effect of particular policies or programs ✓ correct
b) meanings that people give their actions
c) description of the social phenomena of interest
d) consideration of the impact of social context

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Q32. *[Multiple Choice]*

Question such as, “Does gender have an effect on income?” and “Do men, on average, make more money than women?” are examples of _____ research.

a) exploratory
b) descriptive
c) explanatory ✓ correct
d) evaluation

Q33. *[Multiple Choice]*

A study without a hypothesis that examines the culture and social processes within an organization is an example of _____ research.

a) descriptive
b) exploratory ✓ correct
c) evaluation
d) explanatory

Q34. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which of the following is an element of validity and authenticity in social science?

a) popularity
b) simplicity
c) generalizability ✓ correct
d) authority

Q35. *[Multiple Choice]*

When determining how accurate research is in capturing social reality, social scientists refer to dimensions of _____.

a) causality
b) reliability
c) validity ✓ correct
d) evaluation

Q36. *[Multiple Choice]*

_____ describes when a study leads to a conclusion in which A causes B.

a) External validity
b) Internal validity ✓ correct
c) Sampling
d) Measurement validity

Q37. *[Multiple Choice]*

How well the people selected to complete the General Social Survey (GSS) actually reflect the larger U.S. population is a question of _____.

a) reliability
b) causal validity
c) sample generalizability ✓ correct
d) cross-population generalizability

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Q38. *[Multiple Choice]*

The extent to which a researcher's sample is representative of the population that it was drawn from is called _____.

a) reliability
b) overgeneralization
c) external validity ✓ correct
d) measurement validity

True/False (7)

Q39. *[True/False]*

A new student observes that in his first class, the people sitting in the back row answer most of the questions, so in the next class he sits with the back row, concluding that this is where the smartest students sit. The new student made an overgeneralization.

a) True ✓ correct
b) False

Correct answer: True

Q40. *[True/False]*

Evaluation research is useful for political leaders to present their programs and politics as successful.

a) True
b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q41. *[True/False]*

Researchers can rely on the validity of gender ratios in self-reported online forums when identifying differences in usage patterns between men and women.

a) True
b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q42. *[True/False]*

Monitoring college students' relationship to television via electronic recording device has higher measurement validity than asking college students to self-report hours of television watched on a survey.

a) True ✓ correct
b) False

Correct answer: True

Q43. *[True/False]*

Establishing causal validity is necessary to begin a descriptive, exploratory, explanatory, or evaluative research study.

a) True
b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q44. *[True/False]*

If a study claims it is measuring motivation, but the survey asks a question about job satisfaction, the study lacks validity.

a) True ✓ correct
b) False

Correct answer: True

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Q45. *[True/False]*

Authenticity focuses on giving freedom to participants in social scientific research to describe their view of social reality.

a) True ✓ correct

b) False

Correct answer: True

Essay (2)

Q46. *[Essay]*

Explain why social science is considered a scientific discipline.

Suggested answer: *Sample response: Just like in other disciplines, the social sciences use a set of logical, systematic, documented methods for investigating nature and natural processes. Rather than rely on assumptions, the social sciences use scientific methods to investigate individuals, societies, and social processes. Ultimately social scientists, like physical scientists, strive to minimize the occurrence of the four common errors in their studies.*

Q47. *[Essay]*

Consider the argument made by Putnam's*Bowling Alone*, as described in Chapter 1. Are Putnam's conclusions consistent with your own casual observations about how social ties have weakened in the United States? List three of your own observations that are either consistent with or contradictory to Putnam's conclusion. Describe how you might propose descriptive research to test whether your observations hold up to scientific criteria. In addition, be specific about the types of errors in everyday reasoning that might apply to your casual observations.

Suggested answer: *Sample response: Robert Putnam used GSS data in "Bowling Alone," an investigation of social ties in America. Survey responses indicate that "neighboring" has been declining throughout this period. The percentage of GSS respondents who reported spending "a social evening with someone who lives in your neighborhood, about once a month or more often" was 60% for married people in 1975 and about 65% for singles. By 1998, the comparable percentages were 45% for married people and 50% for singles. One issue with Putman's argument is that they define neighboring in a specific way. While physical face to face neighboring has gone down, people are still social in different ways, First, the level of social media interaction has gone up. People use these tools to maintain ties with a geographically disparate network of acquaintances, friends and family. They in a way choose their "neighbors". Second, people have turned to alternative forms of "neighboring". Boardgame nights, roleplaying groups, video game jams etc., show a youth that is not isolated at all, but simply seeks "belonging" in different ways than past generations. Finally, while formal volunteering has gone down, people still use their online or social networks to pitch in when someone has trouble. A study to evaluate this would be to look at patterns of social interaction among newer and older generations, to see if the patterns diverge or a are similar across different platforms. Descriptive research findings simply describe differences or variations in social phenomena. Overgeneralization occurs when we unjustifiably conclude that what is true for some cases is true for all cases. Selective or inaccurate observation is only at things that are in line with our preferences or beliefs. Illogical reasoning is the premature jumping to conclusions or arguing on the basis of invalid assumptions. Resistance to change is the reluctance to change our idea in light of new information. The observations noted about might suffer from a couple of errors. First of all overgeneralization from what is going on at my local level to a general trend in the whole of the USA. Second selective or inaccurate observation, as I might focus on kinds of social interaction I practice myself, and my own age cohort than the population at large. Finally illogical reasoning. The descriptive analysis misses the point of Putman, that the decline in "neighboring" has serious consequences on community services and policies. My description only focuses on the behavior of participants but not the communal outputs.*

Hard

Multiple Choice (8)

Q48. *[Multiple Choice]*

An undergraduate student conducting a research project believes that women are more preoccupied with the way they dress than men. Due to this assumption, the student focuses observations on women and their interactions with their friends and neglects how men present themselves to others. This is an example of _____.

a) selective observation ✓ correct
b) overgeneralization
c) resistance to change
d) illogical reasoning

Q49. *[Multiple Choice]*

A graduate student decides to base their thesis on observations of interactions among individuals involved in a protest. The student wants to understand the protestors' actions as well as the issues that concern them. Which type of research is featured in this scenario?

a) explanatory
b) exploratory ✓ correct
c) descriptive
d) evaluation

Q50. *[Multiple Choice]*

The school board hired a team of social scientists to look at the impact of school policy on physical education and health classes on childhood obesity. Which type of study were the social scientists hired to conduct?

a) explanatory
b) exploratory
c) descriptive
d) evaluation ✓ correct

Q51. *[Multiple Choice]*

According to Robert Putnam's explanatory research, why do people "bowl alone" in the United States?

a) People prefer passive entertainment, such as television.
b) Social ties have weakened. ✓ correct
c) Fewer people bowl.
d) On average, the population has aged.

Q52. *[Multiple Choice]*

The General Social Survey (GSS) is administered to a sample of U.S. residents, but it hopes to identify features of the U.S. population as a whole. In other words, the GSS hopes for _____.

a) cross-population generalizability
b) reliability
c) causal validity
d) generalizability ✓ correct

Q53. *[Multiple Choice]*

The General Social Survey (GSS) asks the question: "Are you very happy, somewhat happy, or not at all happy in your marriage?" Many researchers have questioned whether this is an accurate way to find out how satisfied people really are in their marriage. What is being critiqued in the GSS question?

a) causal validity
b) measurement validity ✓ correct
c) sample generalizability
d) cross-population generalizability

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Q54. *[Multiple Choice]*

A study of face-to-face counseling versus computer-mediated counseling randomly assigned people who were seeking counseling services to face-to-face sessions or computer-mediated sessions. The design of this study ensures _____.

a) cross-population generalizability
b) measurement validity
c) sample generalizability
d) internal validity ✓ correct

Q55. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which behavior promotes authenticity in research?

a) A researcher just focuses on extracting quantitative data from interviews of participants
b) Steadfast focus on the stipulations of the causal story a researcher has when dealing with study participant answers
c) Adherence to a set of pre-determined questions during interviews with participants, and a focus on only those elements of answers that are relevant.
d) A willingness to let participants develop their view of social reality at their own terms. ✓ correct

Essay (7)

Q56. *[Essay]*

Name four errors in everyday reasoning in the following conclusion: People should not feel guilty about not letting their house cats out in the city because when one observer moved to the country, she opened the door to her cats, and they chose not to go outside.

Suggested answer: *Sample response: Overgeneralization occurs when we unjustifiably conclude that what is true for some cases is true for all cases. Selective or inaccurate observation is choosing to look only at things that are in line with our preferences or beliefs. Illogical reasoning is the premature jumping to conclusions or arguing on the basis of invalid assumptions. Resistance to change is the reluctance to change our idea in light of new information. The above scenario is characterized by overgeneralization, as the experience of one observer that may not be valid for other people and environments. There is also illogical reasoning as the experience of one observer and one cat in the country is assumed to valid for observers is a different environment and other cats. There is also no explanation of why a cat might not want to go out, and if that applies to other cats. Finally the statement suffers from selective observation, as it just focuses on one case that confirms the scenarios writers bias on the question of guilt and house-cats.*

Q57. *[Essay]*

Crime has been decreasing in most U.S. cities for the last decade. However, crime remains a critical issue in politics, in the media, and in explanations for why middle-class people do not want to live in the cities. Explain this situation by referring to all four errors in everyday reasoning. Propose different sources of errors in everyday reasoning that might account for continued concern about crime even in the face of evidence of declining crime rates.

Suggested answer: *Sample response: Overgeneralization occurs when we unjustifiably conclude that what is true for some cases is true for all cases. Selective or inaccurate observation is choosing to look only at things that are in line with our preferences or beliefs. Illogical reasoning is the premature jumping to conclusions or arguing on the basis of invalid assumptions. Resistance to change is the reluctance to change our idea in light of new information. Overgeneralization can account for the error in understanding crime patterns. People that live in those few areas that are still experiencing high crime rates are likely to assume this is the case everywhere in the country. Selective or inaccurate observation may see people focusing on the few cases were crime rates are going to be high, both out of fear and out of morbid fascination with crime which tends to do well in ratings with media. Illogical reasoning may motivate observers to discount the general trend of lower crime rates, seek a political explanation for those few places with high crime rates (Red or Blue cities), or expect that what is the minority situation will expand. Finally resistance to change can explain a media environment and people used to narrative of high crime that are too committed to that and refuse to accept data that would question that narrative.*

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Q58. *[Essay]*

In which circumstances are descriptive, exploratory, explanatory, and evaluation research appropriate? Give an example for each.

Suggested answer: *Sample response: Descriptive research questions define and describe social phenomena. For example a study that tries to locate the location of riots in a city would be a descriptive study. Exploratory research questions seek to find out how people get along in the settings under question. For example a study of the behavior and reactions of riot participants and locals in the areas where riots take place would be exploratory research. Explanatory research questions seek to identify causes and effects of social phenomena and to predict how one phenomenon will change or vary in response to variation in another phenomenon. A study that focuses on youth delinquency and unemployment levels per city locations and sees whether there is a connection between high levels and riots occurring would be explanatory research. Evaluation research questions describe and identify the impact of social policies and programs. For example a study that would look at whether youth skill acquisition programs lead to lower delinquency and unemployment levels and that in turn to less riot occurrence would be an evaluation study.*

Q59. *[Essay]*

You are working for a community development organization in a city with high rates of unemployment, poverty, high school attrition, and juvenile delinquency. Your organization wants to begin an afternoon computer-training program for young people. Explain how descriptive, exploratory, explanatory, and evaluation research can all be used to help start and later maintain this program.

Suggested answer: *Sample response: Descriptive research questions define and describe social phenomena. Exploratory research questions seek to find out how people get along in the settings under question. Explanatory research questions seek to identify causes and effects of social phenomena and to predict how one phenomenon will change or vary in response to variation in another phenomenon. Evaluation research questions describe and identify the impact of social policies and programs. Descriptive research would start by surveying the existing level of skill sets among young people, perhaps looking if such training exists in the juvenile prison system, or in the high schools. Exploratory research would focus on uncovering how young people feel about the current education they receive, what challenges they face, and how would they feel about this new opportunity. A post-project exploratory research would focus on the satisfaction or not of the participants with the program. A post-project descriptive research would focus on seeing how many young people participated in the program, and their job prospects post program. Pre-project explanatory research would seek to uncover a causal connection between lack of education in marketable skills and youth delinquency. A post-project explanatory research would seek to uncover a causal tie between participation in the program and better youth employment abilities, and tie between that and lower youth delinquency rates. Evaluation research at the pre-project level would focus on similar projects in other cities, to show that it worked there. A post-program evaluation research would seek to evaluate the success of the program on a battery of participant and social environment variables.*

Q60. *[Essay]*

An advertiser claims that “four out of five veterinarians feed their own dogs CANINE GOODIES” to conclude that CANINE GOODIES is a superior dog food. Use the dimensions of validity to discuss the potential flaws in this conclusion. Discuss how CANINE GOODIES might make their claims more scientific in future commercials.

Suggested answer: *Sample response: Measurement validity exists when an indicator measures what we think it measures. The fact that four out of five veterinarians feed their own dogs canine goodies does not mean that they do so because they think it is a superior dog food. They might do so because it is cheaper than other brands. Generalizability exists when a conclusion holds true for the population, group, setting, or event that we say it does, given the conditions that we specify. We do not know if the dogs of the general public would be as amenable to Canine Goodies. We also cannot assume that the general public has the same motivations as the veterinarians. Causal validity exists when a conclusion that A leads to, or results in, B is correct. This is violated as just because four out of five veterinarians feed their dogs canine goodies that does not make them the superior dog food. It is not clear what dimensions are used to measure superiority. A good study would ask a random sample of veterinarians whether they fed their dogs canine goodies or not, and why they are not doing so. Preferably using a well-crafted scale of satisfaction that accounts for many possible characteristics of superiority.*

Q61. *[Essay]*

A researcher asks five questions of a sample of community residents to find out how much they fear crime and whether their level of fear was influenced by a recent well-publicized murder in the community. Explain what the three dimensions of validity would refer to in this study and why they are important.

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: Measurement validity exists when an indicator measures what we think it measures. These would require carefully constructed questions that address elements of fear of crime, and also the level of exposure to the news about the murder. Generalizability exists when a conclusion holds true for the population, group, setting, or event that we say it does, given the conditions that we specify. This would depend on whether the sample is random enough and big enough to provide us a strong confidence that any resultant findings are applicable to the whole population. Causal validity exists when a conclusion that A leads to, or results in, B is correct. This would depend on the ability of the researcher to conduct an analysis of the findings that shows that the participants fear of crime increased due to exposure to the media story and not because of other factors.*

Q62. *[Essay]*

A researcher is interested in evaluating the success of a job training program for women launched in a city inhabited by an ethnic minority population. The minority speaks a language the researcher does not speak, and furthermore has a patriarchal culture. They intend to conduct a questionnaire survey of women who have participated in the job training program. To do that they partner with local male community leaders that will help them prepare a set question survey, administer it to women whose male family members have permitted to participate in the survey, and translate the answers for them. How likely is this research design to meet the research validity criterion of authenticity? Explain your answer.

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: The research design described above is unlikely to meet the criterion of Authenticity. First the need for intermediaries between the researcher and the participants, and especially one belonging to the dominant gender group, is likely to restrict the views or ideas that participants can express. The use of a set questions questionnaire, vetted by the dominant gender group, means that participants will not be able to freely describe their perspective of their social environment and the impact of the employment program. The vetting of participants by their male relatives is unlikely to produce a representative sample as well. Thus it is very unlikely that this study will provide an authentic image of the effect of the job training program for women.*

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