

**TEST BANK FOR PSYCHOLOGY
13TH EDITION DAVID G. MYERS
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prologue The Story of Psychology

Thinking Critically With Psychological Science

The Biology of Mind

Consciousness and the Two-Track Mind

Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity

Developing Through the Life Span

Sensation and Perception

Learning

Memory

Thinking and Language

Intelligence

What Drives Us: Hunger, Sex, Friendship, and Achievement

Emotions, Stress, and Health

Social Psychology

Personality

Psychological Disorders

Therapy

chapter 1

CHAPTER 1: THINKING CRITICALLY WITH PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Indicate the answer choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

If results are statistically significant but have a small effect size, the results may

- lack practical significance.
- lack a cause-effect relationship.
- represent a negative relationship.
- represent a neutral relationship.

In one study, introductory psychology students were fitted with electronically activated recorders so that researchers could sample their daily activities. The researchers were employing a scientific method known as

- naturalistic observation.
- the double-blind procedure.
- experimentation.
- the case study.

Studies conducted in the late 1990s in which the researcher concluded that children who were administered the MMR vaccination developed autism were

- withheld from the public intentionally.
- accurate.
- never published by academic journals.
- discovered to be fraudulent.

Seven members of a boys' club reported the following individual earnings from their sale of cookies: \$2, \$9, \$8, \$10, \$4, \$9, and \$7. In this distribution of individual earnings

- the median is greater than the mean and greater than the mode.
- the median is less than the mean and less than the mode.
- the median is greater than the mean and less than the mode.
- the median is less than the mean and greater than the mode.

Professor Valetta believes that identical twins have similar levels of intelligence largely because they share common genes. His idea is best described as a(n)

- theory.
- replication.
- naturalistic observation.
- operational definition.

The idea that "people's emotions and personal beliefs often override their acceptance of objective facts" is expressed in the dictionary definition of

- false news.
- post-truth.
- powerful examples.
- repetition.

Professor Terrance has conducted a study that examined the relationship between level of physical activity and academic performance among children. He is most likely to use _____ to determine if a relationship exists.

- meta-analysis
- preregistration
- a correlation coefficient
- experimental research

The tendency to perceive order in random events often leads to overestimating the value of common sense.

- operational definitions.
- informed consent.
- the double-blind procedure.

Dr. Carlson wants to conduct a research study that will examine the sexual behaviors of college students. Before she can begin data collection she must submit her research proposal to

- her institution's review board.
- the APA.
- the BPS.
- her department chair for review.

Approximately what percentage of the cases represented by the normal curve fall between -3 and $+3$ standard deviations from the mean?

- 34
- 68
- 95
- d. 100

Unconscious gut feelings, or _____, provide(s) a sharp contrast to explicit, conscious reasoning.

- theory
- chance-based explanation
- common sense
- naturalistic observation

The explanatory power of a scientific theory is most closely linked to its capacity to generate testable assumptions.

- correlations.
- predictions.
- variables.

Several weeks after a political election, voters often exaggerate their ability to have predicted the election outcome. This best illustrates

chapter 1

the placebo effect.
random assignment.
wording effects.
hindsight bias.

Repeating the essence of a previous research study to verify whether its findings extend to a new group of research participants and to different circumstances is called

replication.
random sampling.
naturalistic observation.
the double-blind procedure.

What was the *Oxford English Dictionary*'s word of the year in 2017?

false news
preregistration
post-truth
repetition

Neither the researchers nor the participants in a study of a weight-loss pill know which participants have actually received a drug designed to help weight loss and which have received a placebo. This investigation involves the use of

naturalistic observation.
random sampling.
the double-blind procedure.
replication.

Which of the following correlations between self-esteem and physical appearance would enable you to most accurately predict physical appearance from knowledge of level of self-esteem?

a. $+.60$
b. $+.01$
c. $-.10$
d. $-.06$

When we ask, for example, how closely related are the intelligence scores of fraternal twins, we are asking how strongly two _____ are related.

experimental groups
control groups
variables
scatterplots

When you read a bar graph, it is most important for you to
mentally transform the data into a normal curve.

chapter 1

- identify the value of the standard deviation.
- note the range and size of the scale values.
- identify the correct measure of central tendency.

Professor Martinez believes that because attractive people are more sensitive, more successful, and more socially skilled, handsome men will be more successful in getting a job. The professor's prediction regarding employment success is an example of

- informed consent.
- the placebo effect.
- a hypothesis.
- a confounding variable.

Dr. McClusky conducted a study in which he compared academic achievement among middle school students who either played video games at least one hour each day or did not play video games for at least one hour each day. The average scores used for academic achievement were reliable for both groups and the difference between the two groups was relatively large. This means that the results he found can be considered

- reliable.
- valid.
- statistically significant.
- correlated.

Surveys indicate that people are less likely to support "affirmative action" than "preferential treatment." These survey results best illustrate the importance of

- random sampling.
- wording effects.
- the placebo effect.
- naturalistic observation.

Statisticians Persi Diaconis and Frederick Mosteller commented, "But with a large enough sample, any outrageous thing is likely to happen." What were they referring to?

- hindsight bias
- overconfidence
- scientific inquiry
- perceiving patterns in random events

Potential research participants are told enough about an upcoming study to enable them to choose whether they wish to participate. This illustrates the practice of seeking

- a representative sample.
- informed consent.
- an operational definition.
- a placebo effect.

chapter 1

In a psychological experiment, the experimental factor that is manipulated by the investigator is called the _____ variable.

- dependent
- independent
- control
- experimental

When people generalize from a few vivid but unrepresentative cases, they are falling prey to operational definitions.

- hypothesizing.
- hindsight bias.
- sampling bias.

What do the parallel research findings of "Eighty percent of prisoners in the United States were spanked as children" and "Seventy-five percent of college students in the United States were spanked as children" demonstrate?

- The survey method leads to causal results.
- Correlation does not prove causation.
- Experimental designs cannot be replicated.
- These statements do not demonstrate any problem.

Jenn earned a 72 on her first psychology exam, a 70 on the second exam, and a 71 on the third exam. What can be said about her exam scores?

- They are a reliable representation of her performance in the class.
- She needs to take more exams in order to determine a reliable representation of her class performance.
- They do not represent her class performance.
- They demonstrate differences in variability and reliability.

The mean of a distribution of scores is the

- most frequently occurring score.
- arithmetic average of all the scores.
- least frequently occurring score.
- score exceeded by 50 percent of all the scores.

When investigators gather data and then seek to identify patterns in the data that can be used to guide theories in the field, they are engaging in _____ research.

- exploratory
- confirmatory
- correlational
- replication

chapter 1

Which measure of variation is affected most by a few extreme scores?

- standard deviation
- mean
- median
- range

Correlational research is most useful for purposes of

- explanation.
- prediction.
- control.
- replication.

_____ samples are better than _____ samples.

- Significant; variable
- Representative; unrepresentative
- Variable; representative
- Significant; unrepresentative

Gamblers often throw dice gently for low numbers and hard for high numbers. This most directly illustrates

- an illusion of control.
- a scatterplot.
- random assignment.
- regression toward the mean.

If psychologists discovered that older parents have smarter children than younger parents, this would demonstrate that

- intelligence is inherited.
- older parents provide their children with greater educational opportunities than do younger parents.
- the age of parents and children is positively correlated.
- all of these statements are correct.

Who is(are) most likely to hold biased views?

- Samantha, who is a Republican
- James, who is a Democrat
- Steven, who is not affiliated with any major political party
- Both Stephanie, who is a Republican, and Derek, who is a Democrat

The ethics codes of the APA and Britain's BPS urge researchers to

- avoid the use of monetary incentives in recruiting people to participate in research.
- forewarn potential research participants of the exact hypotheses that the research will test.
- avoid the manipulation of independent variables in research involving human participants.

chapter 1

explain the research to the participants after the study has been completed.

Approximately what percentage of the cases represented by the normal curve fall between -1 and $+1$ standard deviations from the mean?

- 16
- 34
- 68
- 95

One research team studied the ups and downs of human moods by counting positive and negative words in 504 million Twitter messages from 84 countries. The researchers' method best illustrates the use of

- experimentation.
- naturalistic observation.
- case studies.
- a survey.

To assess the influence of self-esteem on interpersonal attraction, researchers either insulted or complimented students about their physical appearance just before they went on a blind date. In this research, the dependent variable was

- insults or compliments.
- physical appearance.
- interpersonal attraction.
- feelings of self-esteem.

Dr. Johnson has used a _____ to display the results of his study on the correlation between college student stress and academic performance.

- bar graph
- scatterplot
- table
- normal curve

Testing hypotheses and refining theories is central to

- debriefing.
- regression toward the mean.
- the scientific method.
- informed consent.

The most reliable way of testing whether a newly introduced method of psychological therapy is truly effective is to use

- survey research.
- naturalistic observation.
- correlational research.

chapter 1

experimental research.

Which of the following is NOT a weakness of the experimental method?

- lack of feasibility
- lack of control of variables
- reduced generalizability
- ethical limitations on manipulation of variables

Dr. Cast has found that children who watch more television are more likely to be overweight. Which conclusion can he reach?

- Watching television causes obesity.
- Children who are obese like to watch television.
- Watching increased amounts of television is correlated with obesity.
- He cannot come to any conclusion.

Which of the following is NOT an example of animal research guidelines, as discussed in the text?

- informed consent
- companions for social animals
- humane care
- minimize discomfort

_____describes, after the fact, what has happened better than it predicts what will happen.

- Theory
- Chance-based explanation
- Common sense
- Naturalistic observation

The relief of pain following the taking of an inactive substance that is perceived to have medicinal benefits illustrates

- random assignment.
- hindsight bias.
- debriefing.
- the placebo effect.

Professor Z is studying the effect of exposure to sexual content on sexual thoughts. She assigns students to one of two conditions. In the first condition, participants are exposed to explicit sexual content and then given a word-completion task, which involves filling in the letter missing from each word. Based on the letter added, the word could be of a sexual nature or not. For instance, b_d could be completed as "bed," indicating sexual thought, or as "bad," which has no sexual connotation. In the second condition, participants are not exposed to explicit sexual content but are assigned the same word-completion task. The dependent variable is

- sexual thought.
- the word-completion task.