

PSYCHOLOGY OF CHILDHOOD | REVIEW QUESTIONS

These review questions are designed to help you assess your grasp of the facts and definitions covered in your textbook. Knowing facts and definitions is necessary (but not sufficient) for success on formal exams, which assess your ability to conceptualize and analyze the material covered in textbook and lecture. An answer key is provided at the end of these review questions so you can check your answers.

1. Dr. Lowe needs to expand his research beyond his small sample to a more diverse and larger sample in order to obtain:
 - A) interrater reliability.
 - B) internal validity.
 - C) a hypothesis.
 - D) external validity.

2. A disadvantage of naturalistic observation is that:
 - A) it is difficult to know which aspects of the situation caused other aspects to occur.
 - B) the context is not as natural as structured observation.
 - C) the prediction of future behavior is often inaccurate.
 - D) reports are often biased.

3. A main advantage of the structured observation is that:
 - A) it can reveal the child's subjective experience.
 - B) it helps illuminate social interaction processes.
 - C) it ensures all children's behaviors are observed in the same context.
 - D) it reveals more about subjective experiences than interviews.

4. As age increases, weight also increases. This is an example of:
 - A) positive correlation.
 - B) negative correlation.
 - C) no correlation.
 - D) None of these answers is correct.

5. Your Developmental Psychology class finds a positive correlation between the height and weight of the class members. A class member asks, "What does early nutrition have to do with this finding?" This class member has stumbled onto what issue associated with correlations?
 - A) the third-variable problem
 - B) the direction-of-causation problem
 - C) random assignment
 - D) the independent variable

6. Dr. Kid is studying the effects of sleep on a child's reading speed. She initially takes a measure of each child's reading speed. Next, she varies the amount of sleep different children get. Finally, she re-measures their reading speed. What is the independent variable in her study?
 - A) initial reading speed
 - B) post reading speed
 - C) amount of sleep
 - D) the difference between the initial and post reading speeds

7. A team of researchers is studying the differences in whether there are stable individual differences in sleeping behavior at various ages. They decide to test 3-month-olds, 6-month-olds, and 9-month-olds. What type of design are they using to examine this question?
 - A) longitudinal
 - B) cross-sectional
 - C) naturalistic observation
 - D) microgenetic

8. According to the Society for Research in Child Development, which is not a stated ethical principle for conducting research with children?
 - A) Children do not need to be informed about any of the relevant aspects of the research.
 - B) Unforeseen consequences must be dealt with when they arise.
 - C) Children must be debriefed at their level of understanding.
 - D) The research must be safe, both physically and psychologically.

9. The first basic step in using the scientific method involves:
 - A) developing a research plan.
 - B) choosing a question.
 - C) formulating a hypothesis.
 - D) drawing a conclusion.

10. A researcher asks herself the following question: “Can effects within my experiment be attributed to variables that I intentionally manipulated?” What property of behavioral measurement is the researcher addressing?
 - A) interrater variability
 - B) internal validity
 - C) external validity
 - D) test-retest reliability

11. A main advantage of an interview is that it:
 - A) ensures that behavior is addressed in all contexts.
 - B) allows for accurate predictions of future behavior.
 - C) helps illuminate social interaction processes.
 - D) can reveal a child's subjective experience.

12. Researchers find that as physical activity increases, eating habits improve. This is an example of:
 - A) positive correlation.
 - B) negative correlation.
 - C) no correlation.
 - D) the independent variable.

13. The experience that children in an experimental group receive that children in a control group do not is referred to as the:
 - A) dependent variable.
 - B) independent variable.
 - C) random assignment.
 - D) correlational design.

14. Which type of design is best revealing of differences over time and patterns of change?
 - A) longitudinal
 - B) cross-sectional
 - C) naturalistic observation
 - D) microgenetic

15. Which type of design is best used when a pattern of change has been established and the goal of the study is to determine how the change occurs?
 - A) longitudinal
 - B) cross-sectional
 - C) structured observation
 - D) microgenetic

16. The purpose of institutional review boards is:
- A) to review research findings.
 - B) to take responsibility for research in place of individual researchers.
 - C) to ensure that research does not violate ethics guidelines.
 - D) to review research findings with participants.
17. A hypothesis is a(n):
- A) research question.
 - B) conclusion yielded by research.
 - C) method to answer a question.
 - D) educated guess.
18. Test-retest reliability refers to:
- A) the level of agreement between different observers of the same behavior.
 - B) children's improvement over time in abilities such as mathematics.
 - C) the degree to which a test measures what it is intended to test.
 - D) the degree of similarity in the results of the same measure when it is given at two different times.
19. The validity of a test refers to:
- A) its consistency.
 - B) the extent to which two raters agree on its result.
 - C) the degree to which it measures what it is intended to measure.
 - D) the level of agreement between different observers of the same behavior.
20. The internal validity of a measure involves the extent to which:
- A) the effects of an experiment are truly due to conditions the researcher intended to manipulate.
 - B) different observers of the same behavior agree.
 - C) the results of a study hold when studies are conducted with different participants and different methods.
 - D) None of the answers is correct.
21. The external validity of a measure involves the extent to which:
- A) the effects of an experiment are truly due to conditions the researcher intended to manipulate.
 - B) different observers of the same behavior agree.
 - C) the results of a study will hold when studies are conducted with different participants and methods.
 - D) None of the answers is correct.

22. Which of the following items is a potential source of internal invalidity?
- A) passage of time
 - B) inconsistent findings across different groups of participants
 - C) observer disagreement
 - D) conflicting scores on multiple test days
23. A researcher asks children a series of predetermined questions about how much they like to play with their siblings. The researcher is using:
- A) naturalistic observation.
 - B) structured observation.
 - C) clinical interview.
 - D) structured interview.
24. Which of the following statements describes a potential disadvantage of the interview method?
- A) The interview method has limited value for studying infrequent behaviors.
 - B) The prediction of future behaviors is often inaccurate.
 - C) It is difficult to gather information about participants' subjective experiences.
 - D) It takes a long time to gather data from large groups of children.
25. Researchers try to remain unobtrusive in which of the following data-gathering methods?
- A) naturalistic interview
 - B) structured interview
 - C) naturalistic observation
 - D) structured observation
26. Attributes that vary across individuals and situations are termed:
- A) variables.
 - B) correlates.
 - C) causes.
 - D) coefficients.
27. The extent to which two variables are related is referred to as their:
- A) causal direction.
 - B) coefficient.
 - C) relativity.
 - D) correlation.

28. A correlation of -1.00 indicates that:
- A) there is no relationship between the two variables.
 - B) the two variables increase together.
 - C) the two variables decrease together.
 - D) as one variable increases, the other variable decreases.
29. The possibility that the correlation between two variables may actually be the result of an additional unspecified attribute is referred to as the _____ problem.
- A) insufficient variable
 - B) third-variable
 - C) experimental design
 - D) direction-of-causation
30. Which of the following methods is the best way to divide participants into groups for an experiment?
- A) dividing participants by hair color
 - B) allowing participants to choose which group to join
 - C) dividing participants by where their names fall on an alphabetic list
 - D) flipping a coin for each participant
31. Which of the following research designs allows researchers to infer cause-and-effect associations between variables?
- A) structured
 - B) correlational
 - C) experimental
 - D) None of the answers is correct.
32. Which of the following designs compares the behavior of different groups of children who are different ages?
- A) microgenetic design
 - B) cross-sectional design
 - C) landscape design
 - D) longitudinal design
33. Longitudinal designs:
- A) study children on the verge of a developmental change in order to examine the processes that produce changes.
 - B) compare groups of children who are different ages on the same variable.
 - C) follow the same children over a period of time.
 - D) use random assignment.

34. Researchers interested in understanding the process of change are MOST likely to use _____ design.
- A) correlational
 - B) microgenetic
 - C) longitudinal
 - D) cross-sectional

Answer Key - Methods Review

1. D
2. A
3. C
4. A
5. A
6. C
7. B
8. A
9. B
10. B
11. D
12. A
13. B
14. A
15. D
16. C
17. D
18. D
19. C
20. A
21. C
22. A
23. D
24. B
25. C
26. A
27. D
28. D
29. B
30. D
31. C
32. B
33. C
34. B