**QUESTIONS**

***Answers and text page references for test questions can be found in Appendix C.***

**Multiple Choice**

1. According to the diffusion of responsibility theory, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ could eliminate social loafing.

a. measuring group performance

b. measuring individual performance in group situations

c. rewarding positive behavior

d. insisting that workers follow authority figures

ANS: B

A-Head: Making Sense of the World

2. When a person’s word is believed to be true without examination, a belief has been formed via the method of

a. science.

b. tenacity.

c. authority.

d. a priori.

ANS: C

A-Head: Sources of Knowledge

3. Choosing to believe some material in this course because your instructor told you that it is correct information most likely represents which system for the fixation of beliefs?

a. tenacity

b. authority

c. *a priori*

d. scientific method

ANS: B

A-Head: Sources of Knowledge

4. If two theories can explain the same data, then

a. the simpler theory is the better theory.

b. the theory that is unfalsifiable is the better theory.

c. the more complex theory is the better theory.

d. the least parsimonious theory is the better theory.

ANS: A

A-Head: The Nature of the Scientific Explanation

5. The inductive scientist

a. believes that explanation will become obvious once enough data are collected.

b. uses theory to guide research.

c. is concerned with testing between conflicting predictions made by different theories.

d. does not collect data.

ANS: A

A-Head: The Nature of the Scientific Explanation

6. Gathering data within a guiding theoretical framework describes

a. induction.

b. deduction.

c. parsimony.

d. falsifiability.

ANS: B

A-Head: The Nature of the Scientific Explanation

7. Intervening variables are abstract concepts that link \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. control variables; dependent variables

b. independent variables; control variables

c. independent variables; dependent variables

d. basic research; applied research

ANS: C

A-Head: The Nature of the Scientific Explanation

8. The scientific method

a. relies upon empirical observation.

b. has no mechanism for discarding outdated theories.

c. emphasizes the importance of theory over data.

d. emphasizes the role of data over theory.

ANS: A

A-Head: Sources of Knowledge

9. A theory that explains a wide variety of occurrences with very few explanatory concepts is said to

a. be correct.

b. have high heuristic value.

c. be parsimonious.

d. be precise.

ANS: C

A-Head: The Nature of the Scientific Explanation

10. A theory whose predictions are misinterpreted from one researcher to the next is said to

a. be testable.

b. be parsimonious.

c. lack precision.

d. be provable.

ANS: C

A-Head: The Nature of the Scientific Explanation

11. In a laboratory setting, the psychologist is more concerned that the \_\_\_\_\_\_ are the same and less concerned that the physical situation is the same.

a. experimenters

b. underlying processes

c. participants

d. independent variables

ANS: B

A-Head: The Science of Psychology

12. Theory in psychology serves to both organize data and to

a. Generate prediction for untested situations.

b. allow psychology to be termed a natural science.

c. validate psychological findings.

d. ensure the reliability of data.

ANS: A

A-Head: The Nature of the Scientific Explanation

13. Early in life, our beliefs are fixed primarily through

a. tenacity.

b. empiricism.

c. intuition.

d. authority.

ANS: D

A-Head: Sources of Knowledge

14. The statement that science is self correcting refers to

a. the precision with which data must be collected.

b. the ability of observation to establish the superiority of one belief over another.

c. the fact that theories may be proven by empirical methods.

d. the influence of deductive scientists.

ANS: B

A-Head: Sources of Knowledge

15. If the diffusion of responsibility hypothesis is correct, then

a. compared to working alone, individuals working in unmonitored groups will get less work done.

b. compared to working alone, individuals working in unmonitored groups will get more work done.

c. compared to working alone, individuals working in unmonitored groups will get the same amount of work done.

d. worker productivity will decrease if workers are paid less.

ANS: A

A-Head: Making Sense of the World

16. The philosophical belief that the truth of all knowledge is questionable is known as

a. cynicism.

b. pessimism.

c. skepticism.

d. tenacity.

ANS: C

A-Head: Making Sense of the World

17**.** Scientific knowledge is based on

a. authority.

b. tenacity.

c. empirical evidence.

d. a priori beliefs.

ANS: C

A-Head: Sources of Knowledge

18. When we say that a good theory is falsifiable, we mean

a. that it is based on a false assumption.

b. that it makes predictions which can be disproved through empirical observation.

c. that hypotheses derived from the theory cannot be proven.

d. that it contradicts a priori beliefs about a phenomenon.

ANS: B

A-Head: The Nature of the Scientific Explanation

19. A student wants to know whether people who believe in an afterlife cope better with stressful life

events than those who do not. Which of the following methods of answering this question does NOT

rely on empirical data about this relationship?

a. asking a member of the clergy whether people who believe in an afterlife cope better with stressful

life events.

b. interviewing several people about their beliefs about an afterlife and their reactions to stressful

events in their lives.

c. administering a questionnaire to several people that measures their coping skills and their beliefs

about an afterlife.

d. comparing the reactions to a stressful situation of people who do and do not believe in an afterlife.

ANS: A

A-Head: Sources of Knowledge

20. One advantage of supporting basic research in science is that

a. it often leads to immediate applications that are beneficial to society.

b. it guarantees that processes uncovered in the laboratory are the same as those in the real world.

c. it is easier to do than applied research.

d. research done in controlled, laboratory settings can demonstrate phenomena that would be difficult

to observe outside the laboratory.

ANS: D

A-Head: Making Sense of the World

21. The Cartesian model of science takes the view that

a. the goal of science is to benefit society.

b. the goal of science is to understand nature.

c. the goal of science should be to develop socially useful products.

d. the goal of science should be to foster economic development through discovery of new

products and technology.

ANS: B

A-Head: The Science of Psychology

22. If diffusion of responsibility is a valid explanation of social loafing, which of the following would be expected to REDUCE social loafing in a group of workers?

a. evaluating the performance of the group as a whole.

b. monitoring the performance of each individual worker.

c. setting a performance goal for the group as a whole.

d. offering the group a reward for meeting a performance goal.

ANS: B

A-Head: The Nature of the Scientific Explanation

23. Researchers have found that, once learned, negative stereotypes are very resistant to change. According to Peirce, this is an example of belief fixed through

a. empirical observation.

b. deduction.

c. authority.

d. tenacity.

ANS: D

A-Head: Sources of Knowledge

24. Which of the following is an example of applied research in psychology?

a. Participants are asked whether or not they know the answers to a series of questions; the results show that they respond more quickly when the answer is ‘no’ than when the answer is ‘yes.’

b. Two testing methods are compared to see which one is better at selecting applicants who will be successful in a job training program.

c. A researcher finds that people can recall more words from a list when they are asked to create an image to go with each word.

d. A researcher finds that people react more quickly to a signal that is expected than to one that is unexpected.

ANS: B

A-Head: The Science of Psychology

25. A parsimonious theory is one that

a. does not generate testable hypotheses.

b. is expressed in precise, mathematical terms.

c. can account for the available data in the fewest possible terms.

d. is falsifiable.

ANS: C

A-Head: The Nature of the Scientific Explanation

26. To many scientists, the distinction between basic and applied research is an artificial one; this is because

a. all research is difficult to do.

b. both types of research have advantages and disadvantages.

c. very few researchers do research that has no immediate, practical applications.

d. all scientific research is conducted with the goal of obtaining knowledge.

ANS: D

A-Head: The Science of Psychology

**True-False**

1. T / F Applied research is likely to have practical applications.

ANS: T

2. T / F A good theory is incapable of being disproved.

ANS: F

3. T / F According to naturalism, hypothesis testing is the best methodology.

ANS: F

4. T / F Scientists are trained to use the *a priori* method of obtaining knowledge.

ANS: F

5. T / F The results of studies on the social loafing phenomena are explained well by the diffusion of responsibility hypothesis.

ANS: T

6. T / F In the method of deduction, general explanations are generated from a theory that can be tested against data.

ANS: T

7. T / F The self-correcting nature of science is revealed when a particular finding fails to

replicate.

ANS: T

8. T / F Hypothetical concepts known as intervening variables link independent variables to dependent variables.

ANS: T

9. T / F In contrast to other sciences, the verbal theories developed in psychology tend to be more precise than the mathematical theories.

ANS: F

10. T / F Mathematical theories are generally without value in psychology.

ANS: F

11. T / F To understand a process, the physical situations in the real world and the laboratory need to be the same for any firm conclusions to be drawn.

ANS: F

12. T / F Establishing identical behaviors in two different individuals does not ensure that the same underlying processes are occurring in both people.

ANS: T

13. T / F Scientific beliefs are generally formed by the method of tenacity.

ANS: F

14. T / F The scientific method involves rejecting contradictory evidence of a current belief.

ANS: F

15. T / F A generalization is a relatively broad statement lacking specifics that cannot be tested directly.

ANS: T

16. T / F In general, basic researchers assume that the same mental processes cannot occur in different physical situations.

ANS: F

17. T / F A theory cannot be precise if it is testable.

ANS: F

18. T / F Induction and deduction are complementary processes in the scientific process.

ANS: T

19. T / F When two theories can explain some data equally well, the simpler theory is the better theory.

ANS: T

20. T / F The scientific method is useful when attempting to disprove a particular theory.

ANS: T

21. T / F Science is not self-correcting.

ANS: F

22. T / F Basic research is conducted in an attempt to solve a real-world, practical problem.

ANS: F

**Essay Questions**

1. Explain the differences between basic and applied research. How would you classify the research on social loafing described in the chapter?

2. Why do you think falsifiability is a vital characteristic of a good theory? What else constitutes a good theory?

3. Why do you think it is important for scientists to be skeptical?

4. What are intervening variables? How are they related to the concept of parsimony?

5. Describe two advantages of the scientific method. In what way are they superior to non-scientific methods?

6. Describe how the self-correcting nature of science ensures that scientific fraud is revealed.

7. Explain the difference between beliefs acquired through the method of authority and those acquired through empirical methods. Give an example of a commonly accepted belief (e.g., an ‘urban legend’) and suggest how it might be tested empirically.

8. A psychologist hypothesizes that teenagers who play violent video games will become less inhibited about exhibiting aggressive behavior toward others. What is one assumption underlying this hypothesis that might be difficult to test empirically? Why?