

CAUTIONS ABOUT THE PRACTICE EXAM

DEAR STUDENT: This practice tests consists of questions from past exams. By taking this practice test, you should gain an idea of whether you understand the course material as well as you think you do. Research studies have found that many students overestimate how well they know the material in their courses.

Before you take the practice test, please carefully read the CAUTIONS below.

CAUTION #1: These questions are only a SAMPLE of the many questions that could have been asked. Please don't come away from this test thinking that the content in the items below is the only content you need to study.

CAUTION #2: Trying to “Memorize” Answers to Practice Test Questions: A Dangerous Approach. Some students try to memorize the answers to the practice test questions, rather than use the questions as a way to measure whether they understand the underlying concepts. This can be a big mistake. When you see a question on an actual exam, sometimes it may look similar to a practice test question, but if so much as a single key word is different, then it becomes a different question entirely and has a different answer. Sometimes students come to my office and say “Why did I get this question wrong? I put down answer C and on the practice test C was the correct answer.” And then I show them how they didn’t read the actual test question carefully enough, and that the actual test asked about Concept X whereas the practice test asked about Concept Y, even though the wording of the rest of the question was the same. On the actual test, read every question carefully and treat it as a “fresh” question.

CAUTION #3: Some students do not look at this exam until a day or two before the real exam, by which time they have done all the readings and have studied for the real test. Then they use this practice exam and the answer key as a way to measure how well they understand the material.

Other students are curious to see what types of questions are on the test, so they look at this practice test right away or before they’ve finished studying. Curiosity is understandable. But realize that if you look at this exam before studying, and then take the exam as a practice test after studying, your score may be inflated because you “knew” what questions were on this test in advance. Of course, if you look at the exam AND the answer key out of curiosity now, then the exam becomes worthless as a practice test later! So don't look at the answer key just out of curiosity!

KEEP SCORE: Score how many questions you answer correctly. Don't rely on a subjective impression (e.g., "I got most of them right" could mean you got 70% correct, which is less than a grade of C). To convert your practice test score to a grade, do the following.

1. Multiply the number of points you achieve on the practice test by 5. This converts the 40-point exam to a 200 point scale.

2. Look up the grade point on the grading scale (page 4 of syllabus). This tells you what the equivalent grade point of your practice exam would be.

EXAMPLE: George gets 34 items correct on the practice test.

$34 \times 5 = 170$. So, if the exams were graded using grade points, then a score of 34 points on an exam is equivalent to a 3.1 grade point.

SAMPLE EXAM 1: SECTION 1

IMPORTANT: The questions in this “practice exam” cover material that I discussed in lecture, that your TAs presented in labs and/or discussion sections, and that your textbook covers. **As in this practice exam, your actual exams will include questions on material from the assigned readings, even if that material was not covered in lecture or by your TA.** With the permission of Dr. Beth Kerr, some items below are based on questions from her Psychology 209 exams: She uses the same textbook and covers much of the same material in class that we do. Other questions come from my past exams. These questions ARE ONLY A SAMPLE of the possible questions that could have been asked.

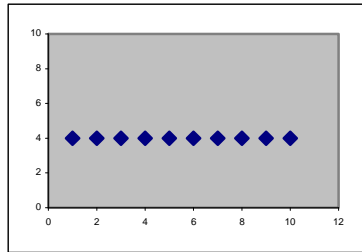
1. The correct order of measurement scales, from least precise to most precise, is:
 - a. ordinal, nominal, ratio, interval.
 - b. nominal, interval, ordinal, ratio.
 - c. nominal, ratio, interval, ordinal.
 - d. ordinal, nominal, interval, ratio.
 - e. nominal, ordinal, interval, ratio.
2. Reliability refers to the degree to which a measure:
 - a. is judged to be a good measure by the researchers and also is perceived as a reasonable measure by the participants in the study.
 - b. actually measures the theoretical construct it is designed to measure.
 - c. produces consistent results, such as when measurements are taken twice under similar circumstances.
 - d. produces results that agree with the results of a know standard.
3. To study teenagers’ dating behaviors, Dr. Wu attends a high school senior prom. Weeks before the prom, Mrs. O’Donnell – the principle of the high school -- sent a letter to all students and their parents informing them about Dr. Wu’s study and asking for their consent to participate. (Assume that everyone gave consent.) At the prom, Dr. Wu stands quietly along the side of room and doesn’t interact with anyone, although the students can easily recognize that she is “the researcher.” In her observations, Dr. Wu records the race and gender of various students, how long they talk, and how often they smile. In this study Dr. Wu’s method of observation best represents:
 - a. undisguised naturalistic observation.
 - b. disguised naturalistic observation.
 - c. undisguised participant observation.
 - d. disguised participant observation.
 - e. structured observation.
4. As Goodwin discusses in your textbook, belief perseverance:
 - a. is a personal characteristic that contributes to being a good scientist.
 - b. represents the most important difference between science and pseudoscience.
 - c. can influence the conclusions that we draw from our personal experiences.
 - d. is an essential aspect of logical thinking, such as when a scientist develops appropriate hypotheses from theories.

5. Which of the following statistics is NOT a measure of central tendency?
- mean
 - standard deviation
 - median
 - mode
6. Here are five correlations: -.90 +.10 +.68 +.05 -.20. Which of the sequences below correctly shows these correlations in increasing order of strength (i.e. from WEAKEST to STRONGEST) as you move from left to right?
- .90 -.20 +.05 +.10 +.68
 - +.68 +.10 +.05 -.20 -.90
 - +.05 +.10 -.20 +.68 -.90
 - .90 +.68 -.20 +.10 +.05
7. Kim is reading a scientific article that has been published in a leading psychological journal. She has just completed reading the introductory section of the article. What section of the article will come next (i.e., what information will the authors present next)?
- the references
 - the discussion
 - the methods
 - the results
 - the abstract
8. Suppose that a researcher finds a correlation of -.71 between two variables: 1) people's "need for affiliation" (higher scores indicate a greater need to affiliate with other people), and 2) the number of hours per week that people spend watching television. The researcher should conclude that: (NOTE: There are only 3 choices below).
- a higher need for affiliation is associated with watching more television.
 - a higher need for affiliation is associated with watching less television.
 - there is not much of a relationship between the two variables because the correlation is negative.
9. Antoine has applied for an engineering job at the KRO Consulting Firm. He is excited by the fact that in the company's job recruiting brochure it says the "typical" salary of the 10 "beginning" engineers (who have been with KRO for one or two years) is \$75,000 a year. However, because _____ is/are distorted by even one or two extreme scores, it would be important for Antoine to ask KRO for more detailed information about the distribution of the salaries of beginning engineers. (NOTE: There are only 3 choices below.)
- the statistical mean
 - the statistical median
 - both the mean and the median
10. According to your textbook, the most common source of an idea for new research in psychology is:
- serendipity
 - a real word news event that generates curiosity
 - a hypothesis based on a theory.
 - an unanswered question from another study that has already been completed

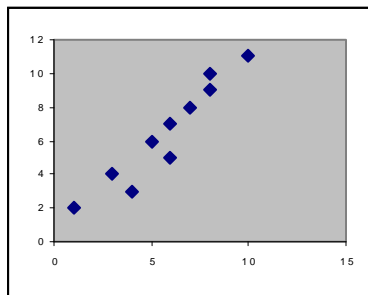
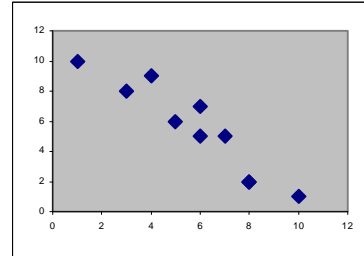
11. A hypothesis is:
 - a. a testable prediction
 - b. an operational definition
 - c. a variable
 - d. a research design
12. Dr. Adams is a psychologist who observes and simply records the mating habits, eating rituals, and aggressive and cooperative interactions of chimpanzees in their natural habitat. In conducting this research, Dr. Adams' only goal is to increase our scientific understanding and knowledge of chimpanzee social behavior. Thus, her research is best classified as an example of:
 - a. applied research that uses a descriptive/correlational approach.
 - b. applied research that uses an experimental approach.
 - c. basic research that uses a descriptive/correlational approach.
 - d. basic research that uses an experimental approach.
13. In survey research, _____ is used to select a group of participants that is representative of the overall population.
 - a. situation sampling
 - b. time sampling
 - c. convenience sampling
 - d. random sampling
14. Dr. Kapoor conducts a study in which she asks 500 students in an Introductory Psychology class to answer the following question: "Compared to the other students in this class, how well do you get along with other people?" Students rate their ability on a scale ranging from -3 (Well below average) to +3 (Well above average). Dr. Kapoor finds that 90% of the students rate their ability as "above average" (i.e., either +1, +2, or +3). Based only on the information given above, which of the following goals of psychology is most clearly illustrated by these results of Dr. Kapoor's study?
 - a. description
 - b. explanation
 - c. prediction
 - d. application
15. Content validity refers to:
 - a. the degree to which a measure actually measures the theoretical construct it is designed to measure.
 - b. how well a measure is able to predict some future behavior OR is meaningfully related to another measure.
 - c. how well a measure intuitively seems to measure what it is supposed to measure.
 - d. the extent to which a measure represents a balanced and adequate sampling of the relevant dimensions, knowledge and skills being assessed.
16. If there is a strong relationship between variable A and variable B, it could be that A is causing B to occur, but it could also be that B is causing A to occur. This is known as the:
 - a. third variable problem
 - b. (bi)directionality problem
 - c. nonlinearity problem
 - d. range restriction problem

17. Which of the following scatterplots shows a strong positive correlation between variable X (which is plotted along the x-axis) and variable Y (which is plotted along the y-axis).?

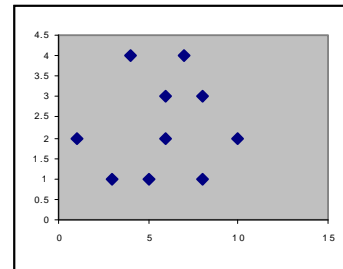
A.



B.



C.



D.

- scatterplot A shows a strong positive correlation
 - scatterplot B shows a strong positive correlation
 - scatterplot C shows a strong positive correlation
 - scatterplot D shows a strong positive correlation
18. Dr. Gerard is studying active, close adult friendships. In his study participants list the names of their close friends. Next, they report how many minutes they spent interacting with their friend last month either in person, via email or telephone, and so on. Dr. Gerard classifies a friendship as “active” if the participant spent 30 minutes or last month interacting with that person. In this example, “spending 30 minutes or more last month interacting with that person” represents the _____ definition of “active friendship.”
- empirical
 - scientific
 - experimental
 - operational.
 - conceptual.

19. The key difference between an interval scale and a ratio scale is that:
- an interval scale has equal intervals, whereas a ratio scale does not.
 - a ratio scale has equal intervals, whereas an interval scale does not.
 - an interval scale has an absolute zero point, whereas a ratio scale does not.
 - a ratio scale has an absolute zero point, whereas an interval scale does not.
20. In a correlational study examining two variables, X and Y, the researcher would _____ variable X and _____ variable Y.
- manipulate; measure
 - manipulate; manipulate
 - measure; manipulate
 - measure; measure
21. Suppose that Test X is a well known and validated test that measures how "extroverted (i.e., outgoing) " people are, and I have just developed a new test, Test Y, to measure how "dominant" people are. Suppose that, according to personality theory, extroversion and dominance are two traits that are NOT supposed to be correlated. If I conduct a study and find that (as predicted) there is no correlation between scores on Test X and my new test Y, then this would most directly demonstrate the _____ validity of Test Y.
- construct
 - criterion
 - content
 - face
22. In selecting participants for a survey, the basic definition of _____ is that each member of the population has an equal chance of being selected.
- nonprobability sampling
 - convenience sampling
 - simple random sampling
 - stratified sampling
23. As discussed in your textbook, to reason inductively is:
- to reason from specific events (e.g., the results of studies) to a general principle (e.g., form a theory)
 - to reason from a general principle (a theory) to a specific event (e.g., a hypothesis)
 - to engage in any form of logical reasoning.
 - to engage in any form of illogical reasoning.
24. In survey research, when should a stratified sample be used?
- when a list of all population members is not available
 - when identifiable subgroups of the population are of interest
 - when probability sampling is not necessary
 - when the population is small enough to permit the testing of all members.
25. As discussed in your textbook, attributes of good theories include:
- serendipity, common sense, and the possibility of falsification
 - serendipity, falsification, and mundane realism
 - productivity, affirming the consequent, and parsimony
 - productivity, parsimony, and the possibility of falsification

26. Systematic empiricism refers to:
- explaining behavior in terms of cause-effect relationships.
 - explaining behavior in terms of correlational relationships.
 - relying on intuition and introspection
 - relying on observation and experimentation in a structured manner.
27. Dr. Poly Tics conducts a survey to determine how the "U.W. student body" feels about the Presidential Candidates. She randomly chooses 300 students from the list of students registered at the beginning of Fall Quarter, but realizes that some students will not appear on this registration list (e.g., those who registered late). In this survey, the entire "U.W. student body" is the _____, and the list of registered students is the _____.
- population; sample frame
 - population; sample
 - sample frame; sample
 - sample frame; population
28. As compared to undisguised naturalistic observation, disguised naturalistic observation typically _____ on the researcher's degree of control over the research setting and _____ the problem of participant reactivity.
- has little influence; increases
 - has little influence; decreases
 - increases; increases
 - increases; decreases
29. Dr. Epstein is an industrial/organizational psychologist who works at the U.S. Department of Transportation. He studies 350 employees at the Department of Transportation and finds a strong positive correlation between how satisfied workers are with their jobs and how productive they are at their jobs. Based solely on this correlation, what is it appropriate to conclude?
- We cannot draw any conclusions about a causal relationship between job satisfaction and work productivity.
 - We can conclude that job satisfaction and work productivity are causally related, but we can't say which causes which.
 - We can conclude that higher levels of job satisfaction cause workers to be more productive.
 - We can conclude that higher productivity causes workers to become more satisfied with their jobs.
30. Which of the following best represents an unobtrusive measure?
- Measuring people's degree of introversion-extraversion by having them complete a psychological tests that contains 100 multiple choice items.
 - Measuring Seattle residents' political preferences by counting the number of cars displaying a bumper sticker for each particular candidate.
 - Conducting a telephone interview to measure people's consumer habits.
 - In a lab experiment, measuring people's anger toward someone by recording the intensity of electric shock that they choose to administer to that person.

SECTION 2: (10 Points)
Reminder: No Calculators

Your Name _____

Your ID# _____ TA's Name _____

Section Time _____

Ten students participated in a study on dreams for one week. Listed below is the number of dreams each student remembered. Calculate the following statistics: (If any answer requires a square root, just put the square root sign around the appropriate number.)

Number of Dreams Remembered: 6, 4, 5, 2, 2, 5, 5, 4, 6, 1

- A) **In the space below, draw a frequency histogram of these data.** Use the lines shown below for your axes. Be sure to label your axes properly. **(1 point for placing data correctly; 1 point for appropriate labels).** (NOTE: If you need to redraw it, either erase fully and redraw clearly, or just cross it out and redraw it on the backside of this page.)



B) **What is the Mode? (1 point)** _____

C) **What is the Median? (1 point)** _____

D) **What is the Mean? (2 points)** _____ **(SHOW YOUR WORK BELOW, THEN CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE)**

THE DATA SET OF DREAMS IS REPEATED BELOW SO THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO FLIP BACK TO PREVIOUS PAGE)

Number of Dreams Remembered: 6, 4, 5, 2, 2, 5, 5, 4, 6, 1

E) What is the Range? (1 Point) _____

F) What is the Variance? (2 Points) _____ **(SHOW YOUR IN THE MAIN BLANK AREA BELOW)**

G) What is the Standard Deviation? (1 Point) _____

(SHOW YOUR WORK FOR CALCULATING THE VARIANCE BELOW)