

Answers to Multiple Choice Items in Student Test Preparation Book

1. **(C)**; This is a direct statement of a null hypothesis, which always takes the form of proposing that the independent variable in an experiment will have no effect on the dependent variable; the researcher hopes at least to disprove or reject the null
2. **(C)**; A major roadblock in conducting longitudinal studies is the danger of losing subjects, either through death or choice, and such loss is called subject mortality. Choice D is incorrect in that longitudinal studies actually offer the *most* consistency within a subject pool, since the subjects remain the same
3. **(B)**; If Milgram had offered his volunteers the right to discontinue, he wouldn't have had much of a study, since he was examining whether or not they would continue in response to the orders of an authority figure. His study required significant deception as well – while many experiments involve some small amount of deception, a present day institutional review board would almost certainly reject Milgram's proposal on the basis of deception alone
4. **(E)**; If the administrator of a survey is “blind”, like those taking the survey, as to the aims of the main researcher then there will be no chance of the administrator signaling what he or she wants to hear to the respondents, thus controlling for possible demand characteristic
5. **(E)**; This is a fairly silly example to illustrate that one cannot do calculations of central tendency with nominal data, since nominal data involve numbers that simply name someone or something
6. **(C)**; In this brief design description, the IV is reading aloud, and the DV is retention of material, as assessed through use of a multiple choice test. Students are encouraged always to re-frame any experimental set-up they encounter on the AP Exam in the same way this item is laid out – that is, they should say “ok, they seem to be testing the effect of ____ (the IV) on ____ (the DV)”
7. **(B)**; A confounding variable must account for a difference in performance between the groups in an experiment. Choice A merely describes the two experimental conditions, choice C is controlled for by the random assignment mentioned in the stem of the item, and neither D nor E would be a confounding variable if true for *all* of the kids involved
8. **(A)**; The biggest potential problem in conducting a naturalistic observation is the chance that the subjects will know they're being observed. Choices B and E are simply not so, choice D is not relevant in this methodology, and choice C simply describes the a central difference between an experiment and a naturalistic observation