

Multiple-Choice Practice Questions

Each question or incomplete statement below is followed by five answer choices. Select the best answer choice for each question or statement. If you want to practice the timing for the AP exam, these multiple-choice items should take you about 10 ½ minutes.

1. A survey indicates that children who have been exposed to training in playing a musical instrument do better academically than children with no such background. School administrators in the area conclude that playing musical instruments early in childhood makes children more intelligent. This conclusion is flawed because
 - (A) the administrators did not accurately identify the independent variable.
 - (B) there was no random sampling.
 - (C) there was no control for confounding variables.
 - (D) the administrators incorrectly inferred causation from correlation.
 - (E) no such conclusion can be reached with only nominal data.
2. Which of the following is an example of random assignment?
 - (A) Researchers clearly identify all those who will be eligible for participation in their study.
 - (B) Researchers clearly define how they will measure the dependent variable.
 - (C) Researchers clearly identify what they will manipulate during the study.
 - (D) All participants have an equal chance of being placed in either condition.
 - (E) Researchers select who will actually be in the study from all of those they have defined as eligible.
3. A teacher assigns a team of five students to observe their classmates for evidence of prosocial behaviors in the school cafeteria. She asks each of them to come up with a score sheet and to record the number of prosocial behaviors each observes over the course of one week. Which of the following is a significant limitation of this study?
 - (A) There is no independent variable in the study
 - (B) There is no operational definition of prosocial behaviors
 - (C) No null hypothesis is stated
 - (D) There is no counterbalancing
 - (E) There is no double-blind procedure
4. If a researcher wanted to demonstrate that a cause and effect relationship exists between frustration and aggressive behavior in children, he or she should use which of the following research methods?
 - (A) Correlational study
 - (B) Experiment
 - (C) Survey
 - (D) Case study
 - (E) Cross-sectional study

5. One advantage of a case study approach over a survey approach in psychological research is that
- (A) researchers can identify cause and effect relationships with case studies but not survey research.
 - (B) case studies may use surveys and other research techniques such as a brain scan or interviews to gather in-depth knowledge of an individual or group.
 - (C) it is difficult to ever get a truly representative sample of respondents when administering surveys.
 - (D) the case study method allows researchers to generalize to an entire population.
 - (E) the case study method allows more rapid and inexpensive results than survey research.

The next three questions (#6, #7, #8) refer to the following scenario:

In an experiment entitled *Expectation and Its Impact on Performance*, a group of new 4th-grade students who did poorly in school in 3rd grade are randomly assigned to one of three groups. One group is assigned to a teacher who is given complete and accurate information on each student; the second group is assigned to a teacher who is told that all students have shown unusually high ability and motivation in previous years, and the third group is assigned to a teacher who is told nothing about the students. At the end of the year, the students' performance is compared using a standardized test.

6. The null hypothesis in this example is that
- (A) the 4th graders will continue to do poorly in the future.
 - (B) the teachers' expectations will have no effect on the students' performance.
 - (C) students' expectations of their teacher will impact their performance.
 - (D) the standardized test at the end of the year will be greatly influenced by the teachers' expectations.
 - (E) the experimental group will outperform the control group.
7. What, respectively, are the independent and the dependent variables in this example?
- (A) The students' behavior and the teachers' performance
 - (B) The teachers' performance and the students' behavior
 - (C) The teachers' expectations are both the IV and the DV in this experiment
 - (D) The teachers' expectations and the students' performance
 - (E) The students' performance and the teachers' expectations
8. Which group is the control group in this experiment?
- (A) The group about which the teacher is given complete and accurate information.
 - (B) The group the teacher was told had unusually high ability and motivation.
 - (C) The group about which the teacher was provided with no information.
 - (D) The performance of the children on standardized test measures.
 - (E) This study does not have a control group.

9. Jacob is conducting research on the impact of athletic participation in high school on grade point average. He uses current athletes from his high school and asks them to report their GPA. Which of the following best represents the type of research Jacob is conducting?
- (A) Longitudinal research
 - (B) Cross-sectional design
 - (C) Case study approach
 - (D) Correlational research
 - (E) Experimental research
10. Which of the following is the most likely value for “r” in a study examining the correlation between the amount of clothing one wears and the temperature outside according to the Fahrenheit scale?
- (A) $r = +1.25$
 - (B) $r = -.97$
 - (C) $r = -.44$
 - (D) $r = +.79$
 - (E) $r = -1.17$
11. In random sampling, it is essential that
- (A) all members of the defined population have an equal chance of being selected for the control or experimental conditions.
 - (B) there is no more than a 5% margin for error.
 - (C) there is an equal number of males and females in the sample.
 - (D) you include at least 50% of the target population in your sample.
 - (E) all members of the target population have an equal chance of being chosen for participation in the study.
12. Which of the following accurately describes the three measures of central tendency for the following scores on a quiz? 3, 7, 6, 10, 4
- (A) The S.D. is < 2 , there is no mode, and the median is 6
 - (B) The S.D. is > 2 , the mean is 6, and the variance is 4
 - (C) The mean is 6, the mode is 3, and the median is 6
 - (D) The mean is 6, there is no mode, and the median is 6
 - (E) The range is 6, the mean is 5, and the median is 4

13. Georgina is examining the voting habits of individuals in different ethnic groups. She is interested in those who have voted in the most recent election, and will compare the opinions of Asian, African-Americans, Hispanic, and Caucasian voters. Which type of research design is Georgina using?
- (A) Longitudinal
 - (B) Cross-sectional
 - (C) Experimental
 - (D) Case study
 - (E) Quasi-experimental
14. In a normal distribution of IQ scores with a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 15, approximately what percentage of scores would fall between $z = -1$ and $z = +2$?
- (A) 34%
 - (B) 57.5%
 - (C) 68%
 - (D) 81.5%
 - (E) 97%
15. When scores in a distribution are negatively skewed
- (A) the mean, median, and mode are the same.
 - (B) the median value will be higher than the mean value.
 - (C) the median value will be the same as the mode.
 - (D) the mode and the mean will be the same.
 - (E) the range will be the same as the median.