Research Foundations

1. Endeavors to explain, predict, and/or control phenomena are the goal of
   a. tradition
   b. inductive logic
   c. deductive logic
   d. scientific method

2. Which of the following problems is most appropriate to a qualitative approach?
   a. Describing the relationship between students' math attitudes and their math achievement
   b. Identifying the characteristics that differentiate students who drop out of high school from those students who do not drop out.
   c. Describing the effect of creating a student-centered assessment environment on students' achievement.
   d. Understanding what it is like to work in a school that is changing the decision-making process from a top-down, administratively driven model to a bottom-up, teacher driven model.

3. Peter Parker decided to conduct a research project. Based on his experiences and issues facing his leisure service agency, Peter decided to examine an issue related to personnel. To build a foundational understanding of what is known about the topic (and how has been studied), he goes to the library to review journal articles. However, when Peter begins searching for articles, he types the word, "personnel" into the search database only to find a list of 22,075 articles emerge that are related to personnel. Peter is distraught as he knows a review of all 22,075 articles is impossible. What is the likely reason Peter is faced with this problem?
   a. His topic is too broad. He needs to narrow the topic down by combining personnel with another one of the 5 P's of recreation research such as programs.
   b. His topic is too broad. He needs to narrow the topic down by identifying a specific personnel-related issue to examine such as employee satisfaction with training/development opportunities.
   c. This topic is not relevant to parks and recreation and the list of 22,075 proves that it is too big of a research topic to examine in our field.
   d. His topic is too narrow.

4. Reasoning from the specific to general is known as
   a. deductive reasoning
   b. inductive reasoning
   c. correlation research
   d. experimental research
5. Which of the following is most aligned with a researcher using quantitative methods?
   a. Studying a large number of subjects as a detached, objective observer.
   b. Studying an interesting phenomenon in the context in which it naturally occurs.
   c. Communicating the results of the study in a loosely structured report that uses informal language.
   d. Using a research design that changes as narrative data is collected and analyzed.

6. Which of the following steps of the scientific method is exemplified by the researcher reviewing the literature and focusing on a specific problem that has yet to be resolved?
   a. Identify a topic.
   b. Describe the procedures to collect information.
   c. Analyze the collected information.
   d. State the results of the data analysis.

7. Reasoning from the general to the specific is known as
   a. deductive reasoning
   b. inductive reasoning
   c. correlation research
   d. experimental research

8. The five steps in the scientific method are:
   a. Recognition & definition of the problem; formulation of hypotheses; collection of data; making decisions; conclusions
   b. Recognition & definition of the problem; formulation of hypotheses; collection of data; analysis of data; conclusions
   c. formulation of hypotheses; collection of data; analysis of data; conclusions; making generalizations
   d. formulation of hypotheses; collection of data; analysis of data; conclusions; implementing decisions

9. The scientific method is preferred over other ways of knowing because it is more
   a. reliable
   b. systematic
   c. efficient
   d. all of the above

10. Ms. Tina Turner is thinking about changing her youth sports instructional approach to a more mastery-learning orientation. She is interested in knowing more about this topic as well as its effectiveness when working with youth ages 5-12. On which source should she rely for such information?
    a. Tradition
    b. Intuition
    c. Research
    d. Personal Experience
5 P's – Defining the Research Topic

11. What is the reason for consulting handbooks, yearbooks, encyclopedias, or reviews in the initial stages of identifying a research topic?
   a. They are readily available.
   b. They provide an overview of the issues related to a topic.
   c. They are primary sources.
   d. They avoid reporting statistical data so one can interpret the results more easily.

12. Johnny Ringo identified his research topic as "program assessment." He recognized quickly that this topic was too broad. Which of the following is likely to have led to that conclusion?
   a. Far too much is written on the topic to understand it all.
   b. It was difficult to organize the material he was collecting in an effective manner.
   c. He began thinking about potential problems that would be next to impossible to investigate.
   d. All of these.

13. Which of the following is NOT a legitimate research problem as stated?
   a. What is the relationship between the number of books children read and their participation in Little League?
   b. Should competitive games be banned from recreation programming?
   c. What does it mean to be a special needs child "included" in Ms. Pierre's kids & fitness class?
   d. What are the major legal principles applied to indoor rock climbing cases decided by the U.S. Supreme Court?

14. Which of the following is the least appropriate research problem?
   a. Does participating in recess improve the standardized vocabulary test scores of seventh grade students?
   b. Does teaching children the importance of leisure in their lives improve their standardized test scores?
   c. What is the relationship between seniors' leisure constraints and life satisfaction?
   d. Should park district integrate video games into their programs?

15. Which of the following is an online library database?
   a. Academic Search Complete
   b. Schole
   c. Pancratium Now
   d. All of the above

16. Research examining the community’s satisfaction with the organizational structure of the Elk Grove Park District would be an example of ____________.
   a. personnel research
   b. policy & administration research
   c. program research
   d. place (park areas & facilities) research
17. Which one of the following is not a level of program evaluation?
   a. Input
   b. Output
   c. Reactions
   d. KASA Changes

18. A study that explores the community’s satisfaction with the safety and cleanliness of Sterling Park District’s Westwood Sports & Expo Center could be categorized as what type of research?
   a. personnel research
   b. policy & administration research
   c. program research
   d. place (park areas & facilities) research

19. Financial resources, facilities, and program staff salaries are likely researched within what level of program evaluation?
   a. Input
   b. Output
   c. Reactions
   d. KASA Changes

20. Research examining the uses of employee performance appraisals (i.e., pay, promotion, training & development, etc.) within a leisure service agency represents ________ research.
   a. personnel
   b. program
   c. place
   d. participants

Preparation the Research Plan/Proposal

21. A detailed description of the procedures that will be used to investigate a topic is known as
   a. the analysis of data.
   b. the research hypothesis.
   c. a research proposal/study.
   d. the statement of the problem.

22. Which of the following is a good reason to develop a research plan?
   a. It provides structure to the study.
   b. It reduces the possibilities of costly mistakes.
   c. It saves time.
   d. All of the above
23. Which of the following is NOT part of the introduction section (Chapter 1) of a quantitative research plan?
   a. Statement of Topic
   b. Review of Literature
   c. Research Hypotheses
   d. Definitions

24. Mr. Potter’s discussion of his sampling design and data collection procedures is found in which section of his quantitative research plan?
   a. Introduction
   b. Definitions
   c. Limitations
   d. Methods

25. The __________ section discusses the aspects of the study that could have a negative effect upon the results.
   a. Hypotheses
   b. Definitions
   c. Limitations
   d. Methods

26. The __________ section states the expected relationships between variables of interest to the study.
   a. Hypotheses
   b. Definitions
   c. Limitations
   d. Methods

27. The __________ positions the study in the context of what is known and what is not known about the topic.
   a. Introduction
   b. Limitations
   c. Literature Review
   d. Methods

28. The __________ is typically completed at the beginning of the study, placed in Chapter 2 of the research proposal, and is often the most time consuming.
   a. Introduction
   b. Limitations
   c. Literature Review
   d. Methods

29. The __________ section identifies the characteristics of the population.
   a. Introduction
   b. Procedures/Instruments
   c. Participants/Study Population
   d. Research Methods/Design
30. The _________ section provides a detailed description of the specific measures of each variable.
   a. Introduction
   b. Procedures/Instruments
   c. Participants/Study Population
   d. Research Methods/Design

**Selecting A Sample**

31. All members of a specified group is known as
   a. the population
   b. the sample
   c. the subjects
   d. the sampling technique

32. Which of the following is a basic step in selecting a sample from a population regardless of the specific technique being used?
   a. Identify the population
   b. Define the sample size
   c. Select the sample
   d. All of the above

33. A sampling technique commonly used in qualitative research in which the initial participants lead the researcher to other participants in known as _________.
   a. intensity sampling
   b. homogeneous sampling
   c. criterion sampling
   d. snowball sampling

34. The difference between the characteristics of a sample and the characteristics of a population from which the sample was selected is known as
   a. sampling error
   b. sample size
   c. probability sampling
   d. nonprobability sampling

35. In general, the dividing line between large and small samples is
   a. 10 people
   b. 20 people
   c. 30 people
   d. 40 people
36. Before generating a sample, a researcher must
   a. identify the study population
   b. be comfortable with the appropriate procedures of statistical analyses
   c. calculate the standard deviation
   d. create a data file

37. This form of sampling is the most common type of probability sampling
   a. nonprobability
   b. random
   c. convenience
   d. purposive

38. This type of sampling is used when the researcher wishes to obtain a proportionate demographic representation of the study’s population.
   a. purposive
   b. cluster
   c. stratified random
   d. quota

39. This tool is regularly used to select a random sample
   a. saturation technique
   b. table of random numbers
   c. systematic digit dialing technique
   d. field interviews

40. According to the text, which one is NOT a category of sampling:
   a. probability
   b. nonprobability
   c. strategic
   d. theoretical

**Measurement Issues & Instruments**

41. Jane wants to measure her participants' attitudes toward resistance training (i.e., weight training). Attitudes are an example of a(n)

   a. construct
   b. operational definition of a variable
   c. variable
   d. independent variable
42. Sarah has decided to use the dance performance skill test at the end of the Ballroom Dancing program to measure the achievement levels of the students in her study. Which of the following BEST describes the dance performance skill test?
   a. construct
   b. operational definition of a variable
   c. variable
   d. independent variable

43. Which type of measurement scale describes timed scores (i.e., # of jump ropes completed in one minute)?
   a. Nominal
   b. Ordinal
   c. Interval
   d. Ratio

44. Variables such as gender, ethnicity, or political affiliation are measured on which scale?
   a. Nominal
   b. Ordinal
   c. Interval
   d. Ratio

45. What is the independent variable in a study comparing employees’ knowledge of safety procedures between two facilities?
   a. Facilities
   b. Employees knowledge of safety procedures
   c. Safety procedures
   d. employees

46. What is the dependent variable in a study assessing the perceptions of physical health of members of a recreation facility?
   a. Members of a recreation facility
   b. Perceptions of physical health
   c. Demographic characteristics
   d. Gender

47. What is the dependent variable in a study assessing academic performance based on gender?
   a. academic performance
   b. gender
   c. year in school
   d. academic institution

48. What is the independent variable in a study assessing academic performance based on gender?
   a. academic performance
   b. gender
   c. year in school
   d. academic institution
49. Which of the following activities are employed to assist in the development of a data collection instrument (i.e., survey, questionnaire, etc.)? 
   a. stakeholder interviews
   b. needs assessment processes
   c. reviews of related literature
   d. All of the above
   e. A & C

50. Why would the City of Paris be interested in a community-wide recreation interests study? Simply put, why is this project important?
   a. Community park and recreation agencies are responsible for providing their community quality recreation opportunities. Agencies must ensure residents have the opportunity to participate in quality recreation programs, attractive parks, and effective and safe recreation facilities. In turn, these services can promote a stronger sense of community identity, improve the quality of life for residents, and create a positive economic impact within the community. To deliver these services, agencies must be concerned with the recreational needs of the community and the effective planning of present and future development in accordance with these needs.
   b. A community-wide survey is used to identify the recreation needs and interests of a community.
   c. The community-wide survey provides administrators with information about residents’ attitudes, opinions, and perceptions toward current and future park and recreation services that can be used in the planning of parks, programs, and facilities to best meet the interests of the community.
   d. All of the above
   e. I don’t know. I am still wondering why you would subject me to this experience as it is painful and scary at the same time. My only answer is that you (Mulvaney) must be a heartless villain who will likely be portrayed in an upcoming Pixar movie with the voice of the character being played by Christopher Walken.