

**CHAPTER 2: Studying the Family**  
**Quiz #2: Answer Key**

1. Answer: A

Chapter heading/page #: Introduction/p. 29

Question type: Factual; Question level: Easier

2. Answer: B

Chapter heading/page #: Why Theories and Research Are Important in our Everyday Lives/p. 32

Question type: Conceptual; Question level: Moderate

3. Answer: D

Chapter heading/page #: Theoretical Perspectives on Understanding Families /p. 32

Question type: Conceptual; Question level: Easier

4. Answer: A

Chapter heading/page #: Theoretical Perspectives on Understanding Families /p. 34

Question type: Conceptual; Question level: Moderate

5. Answer: A

Chapter heading/page #: Theoretical Perspectives on Understanding Families/p. 35

Question type: Conceptual; Question level: Easier

6. Answer: D

Chapter heading/page #: Theoretical Perspectives on Understanding Families /p. 40

Question type: Conceptual; Question level: Easier

7. Answer: D

Chapter heading/page #: Family Research Methods/p. 42

Question type: Applied; Question level: Moderate

8. Answer: B

Chapter heading/page #: Family Research Methods/p. 46

Question type: Conceptual; Question level: Easier

9. Answer: A

Chapter heading/page #: The Ethics and Politics of Family Research/p. 49

Question type: Factual; Question level: Easier

Short Answer

10. Answer: One: What we don't know can hurt us. Two: Theories and research help us understand ourselves and our families. Three: They improve our ability to think more critically and make informed decisions in our own marriages and families.

Chapter heading/page #: Why Theories and Research Are Important in our Everyday Lives/p. 30-32

Question type: Factual; Question level: Easier

## TEST QUESTIONS: CHAPTER 2

### Studying the Family

#### Multiple Choice Questions

1. Why are theories and research on marriage and the family important in our everyday lives?
- They give us the complete answers for achieving a successful family.
  - They show us families that are a lot worse off than our own.
  - They improve our ability to think more critically and make informed decisions in our own families.
  - They make simple that which is mysterious.

(Conceptual; answer: c; page 30)

2. Self-help books and articles tend to
- make people feel better about themselves.
  - support non-traditional gender roles.
  - oversimplify complex problems.
  - cite scientific research found in academic journals.

(Factual; answer: c; page 31)

3. A set of statements that explains why a particular phenomenon occurs is called a
- hypothesis.
  - role.
  - guide.
  - theory.

(Conceptual; answer: d; page 32)

4. Which theory examines the relationship between the family and the larger society, focusing on how the parts work together in fulfilling the tasks necessary for the family's survival?
- structural-functionalism
  - conflict perspective
  - social exchange perspective
  - family development perspective

(Conceptual; answer: a; page 32)

5. According to structural-functional theory, adult family tasks are best accomplished when the husband carries out the \_\_\_\_\_ role and the wife carries out the \_\_\_\_\_ role.
- expressive; instrumental
  - instrumental; expressive
  - latent; manifest
  - manifest; latent

(Conceptual; answer: b; page 32)

6. Playing the \_\_\_\_\_ role means providing food and shelter for the family and, at least theoretically, being hardworking, tough, and competitive.

- a. manifest
- b. latent
- c. instrumental
- d. expressive

(Conceptual; answer: c; page 32)

7. According to structural-functional theory the expressive role is best carried out by the

- a. wife.
- b. husband.
- c. parents.
- d. marriage and family therapists.

(Conceptual; answer: a; page 32)

8. Playing the \_\_\_\_\_ role means providing the emotional support and nurturing qualities that sustain the family unit and support the breadwinner.

- a. instrumental
- b. expressive
- c. latent
- d. manifest

(Conceptual; answer: b; page 32)

9. According to structural-functionalism, family roles are functional because they preserve

- a. sexism and abuse.
- b. individualism.
- c. flexibility and adaptability.
- d. order, stability, and equilibrium.

(Conceptual; answer: d; page 32)

10. Functions that are intended and recognized are called \_\_\_\_\_ functions.

- a. manifest
- b. latent
- c. expressive
- d. instrumental

(Conceptual; answer: a; page: 33)

11. Functions that are unintended and unrecognized are called \_\_\_\_\_ functions.

- a. manifest
- b. latent
- c. expressive
- d. instrumental

(Conceptual; answer: b; page 33)

12. The \_\_\_\_\_ function of the marriage ceremony is to publicize the formation of a new family unit and to legitimize sexual intercourse; the \_\_\_\_\_ function is to communicate a “hands-off” message to past or future suitors.

- a. expressive; instrumental
- b. instrumental; expressive
- c. manifest; latent
- d. latent; manifest

(Applied; answer: c; page 33)

13. Structural-functionalism has come under attack for being too

- a. liberal.
- b. radical.
- c. concerned with social change.
- d. conservative.

(Factual; answer: d; page 34)

14. A structural-functionalist would be most likely to see divorce as

- a. dysfunctional and as signaling the disintegration of the family.
- b. functional if the marriage was unhappy.
- c. functional no matter the circumstances.
- d. dysfunctional initially but producing stronger families in the long run.

(Applied; answer: a; page 34)

15. Which of the following is a criticism of structural-functionalism?

- a. It focuses too much on how families interact on a daily basis.
- b. It tends to define family roles too broadly.
- c. It tends to emphasize order and stability and ignore social change.
- d. It emphasizes the structure of nontraditional families at the expense of traditional families.

(Factual; answer: c; page 34)

16. Although the conflict perspective has a long history, it became popular during the late 1960s when \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ started to challenge structural-functionalism.

- a. men; women
- b. African Americans; feminists
- c. Promise Keepers; televangelists
- d. parents; children

(Factual; answer: b; page 34)

17. Which theory examines the ways in which groups disagree, struggle for power, and compete for scarce resources?

- a. structural-functionalism
- b. exchange theory
- c. conflict theory
- d. symbolic interactionism

(Factual; answer: c; page 34)

18. Conflict theorists see a continuous tension between the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. mother; father
- b. politicians; capitalists
- c. depressed; exuberant
- d. “haves”; “have-nots”

(Conceptual; answer: d; page 34)

19. According to conflict theory, who dominates political and economic decision making in American society?

- a. whites, middle-class, wealthy males
- b. people of color
- c. children
- d. the elderly

(Factual; answer: a; page 34)

20. According to conflict theory, who are the “have-nots” in American society?

- a. white men
- b. children, women, and people of color
- c. Protestants
- d. the middle-aged

(Factual; answer: b; page 34)

21. A critique of conflict theory is that it overemphasizes conflict and coercion at the expense of

- a. downward mobility.
- b. economic shifts.
- c. order and stability.
- d. male dominance.

(Factual; answer: c; page 34)

22. Theories which examine how gender roles shape relations between the sexes, in institutions such as politics, the economy, religion, education and the family, are called
- conflict theories.
  - structural functional theories.
  - exchange theories.
  - feminist theories.

(Conceptual; answer: d; page 34)

23. How have feminist scholars contributed to family theory and social change?
- They have shown that most families are traditional married couples with children and so we do not have to worry about the family declining.
  - They have worked to exclude fathers from having contact with their children after divorce.
  - They have worked for legislation that provides employed women with parental leave rights in order to balance the power between men and women.
  - They have refocused much of the research on families to include fathers as involved, responsible, and nurturing family members who have a profound effect on children and the family.

(Factual; answer: d; page 35)

24. Which of the following is a critique of feminist theory?
- Theorists have formed an “old girl network.”
  - Researchers tend to overlook diversity in focusing on the commonalities between families.
  - Researchers pay too much attention to other forms of oppression such as oppression based on age.
  - Feminists overemphasize the experiences of minority women.

(Factual; answer: a; page 35)

25. \_\_\_\_\_ examines how a family influences and is influenced by its environment.
- Ecological
  - Structural Functional
  - Family Development
  - Symbolic Interactionism

(Conceptual; answer: a; page 35)

26. The interconnected behaviors, roles and relationships which influence the person’s daily life are called the
- microsystem.
  - exosystem.
  - macrosystem.
  - mesosystem.

(Conceptual; answer: a; page 35-36)

27. The settings or events which people do not experience directly, but which affect their development, are called the
- a. microsystem.
  - b. exosystem.
  - c. macrosystem.
  - d. mesosystem.

(Conceptual; answer: b; page 36)

28. The wider society and culture that encompasses all other systems is the
- a. microsystem.
  - b. exosystem.
  - c. macrosystem.
  - d. mesosystem.

(Conceptual; answer: c; page 36)

29. The \_\_\_\_\_ is composed of the relationships between different settings such as the home and school are part of the
- a. microsystem.
  - b. exosystem.
  - c. macrosystem.
  - d. mesosystem

(Conceptual; answer: d; page 36)

30. For children, their parent's employment is part of the
- a. microsystem.
  - b. exosystem.
  - c. macrosystem.
  - d. mesosystem

(Applied; answer: b; page 36)

31. Which of the following is a critique of the ecological perspective?
- a. Individual roles and environmental settings are not highly interrelated.
  - b. It does not help us to explain family dynamics.
  - c. It is less focused on growth than on disintegration.
  - d. It is unclear how the interactions among the four systems affect nontraditional families.

(Factual; answer: d; page 36)

32. Which perspective examines the changes that families experience over their lifespan?
- a. symbolic interaction theory
  - b. family development theory
  - c. exchange theory
  - d. structural-functionalism

(Conceptual; answer: b; page 36)

33. According to developmental theories, as family members progress through the life cycle, they \_\_\_\_\_; that is, they learn to fulfill role expectations and responsibilities such as showing affection and support for family members and socializing with others outside of the family.

- a. grow
- b. create relationships
- c. accomplish developmental tasks
- d. develop roles

(Conceptual; answer: c; page 36)

34. Which of the following statements concerning developmental tasks is true?

- a. Developmental tasks change over time.
- b. Developmental tasks are unidimensional.
- c. Developmental tasks tend to be similar for all types of families.
- d. Developmental tasks tend to be cyclical in that we revisit childhood tasks as adults.

(Conceptual; answer: a; page 36)

35. The process by which kin-work is assigned to specific family members, most often women, is called

- a. chores.
- b. kin-scription.
- c. kin-time.
- d. segmentation.

(Conceptual; answer: b; page 37)

36. Which of the following is a criticism of family development theories?

- a. The stages posited by the theory are artificial in that life is not so clearly segmented.
- b. They are overly focused on the extended family.
- c. They focus too much on sibling relationships at the expense of parent-child relationships.
- d. The theory is largely descriptive rather than explanatory.

(Factual; answer: a; page 37-38)

37. A micro-level theory that looks at the everyday behavior of individuals is called

- a. structural-functionalism.
- b. conflict theory.
- c. exchange theory.
- d. symbolic interactionism

(Conceptual; answer: d; page 38)



38. Parents, friends, relatives, and teachers are examples of
- significant others.
  - family.
  - symbols.
  - shared meanings.

(Applied; answer: a; page 38)

39. Words, gestures, or pictures that stand for something are called
- significant others.
  - symbols.
  - alternative language
  - double-speak

(Conceptual; answer: b; page 38)

40. The way in which we perceive reality and react to it is called
- significant others.
  - role enactment.
  - the definition of the situation.
  - the perceptual field.

(Conceptual; answer: c; page 38)

41. Marlene is a wife, grandmother, sister, daughter, and an aunt. These are examples of Marlene's
- roles.
  - social worth.
  - aspirations.
  - degrees.

(Applied; answer: a; page 38)

42. The most common criticism of symbolic interaction theory is that it ignores
- order and stability.
  - the impact on the family of macro-level factors.
  - conflict and change.
  - the value of family roles.

(Factual; answer: b; page 38)

43. Which theory posits that any social interaction between two people is based on the efforts of each person to maximize rewards and minimize costs?
- symbolic interaction theory
  - conflict theory
  - social exchange theory
  - feminist theory

(Conceptual; answer: c; page 39)

44. According to the social exchange perspective, when would a marriage end in a separation or divorce?

- a. When the costs of the marriage outweigh the rewards.
- b. When the husband and wife no longer make the same amount of income.
- c. When the husband and wife no longer define the marriage in the same way.
- d. When the children of the marriage grow up and leave home.

(Applied; answer: a; page 39)

45. Social exchange theory has been criticized for giving too much weight to

- a. rational behavior.
- b. conflict.
- c. order.
- d. qualitative research.

(Factual; answer: a; page 39)

46. Which theory views the family as a functioning unit that solves problems, makes decisions, and achieves collective goals?

- a. family systems theory
- b. social exchange theory
- c. conflict theory
- d. structural-functional theory

(Conceptual; answer: a; page 39)

47. According to family systems theory, a key concept is \_\_\_\_\_; that is a change in one part of the family or external environment sets in motion an adjustment process to restore the family to the way it was in the past.

- a. interaction
- b. grounding
- c. settling
- d. equilibrium

(Conceptual; answer: d; page 40)

48. Which of the following is a criticism of family systems theory?

- a. It has generated a lot of terminology, but little insight into how families really function.
- b. It ignores order and stability.
- c. It does not try to understand what makes families dysfunctional.
- d. It is based solely on survey data.

(Factual; answer: a; page 40)

49. Researchers who collect data or examine data on families such as age at first marriage or family size are doing \_\_\_\_\_ research.

- a. qualitative
- b. interpretive
- c. analytical
- d. quantitative

(Conceptual; answer: d; page 41)

50. Researchers use which of the following methods to systematically collect data from respondents through questionnaires or interviews?

- a. the experiment
- b. surveys
- c. participant observation
- d. unobtrusive measurement

(Conceptual; answer: b; page 41)

51. Any well-defined group of people (or things) that researchers want to know something about is called a

- a. population.
- b. sample.
- c. focus group.
- d. variable.

(Conceptual; answer: a; page 41)

52. A group of people (or things) that are representative of the population that a researcher wishes to study is called a

- a. population.
- b. variable.
- c. sample.
- d. focus group.

(Conceptual; answer: c; page 41)

53. When researchers use criteria such as convenience or availability of participants, they are using a

- a. random sample.
- b. probability sample.
- c. nonprobability sample.
- d. focused sample.

(Conceptual; answer: c; page 41)

54. In a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ sample, each person (or thing) has an equal chance of being chosen.
- a. availability
  - b. probability
  - c. nonprobability
  - d. convenience

(Conceptual; answer: b; page 41)

55. The problem with television news and entertainment shows that provide a toll-free number and encourage viewers to “vote” is that the sample they get is
- a. a probability sample, where every person has an equal chance of being selected.
  - b. very expensive to obtain.
  - c. a nonprobability sample that cannot be generalized to the population.
  - d. representative of the population.

(Factual; answer: c; page 41-42)

56. When a small number of people participate in a guided discussion of a particular topic so that researchers can learn more about certain issues, the group is called a
- a. study group.
  - b. experimental group.
  - c. population.
  - d. focus group.

(Conceptual; answer: d; page 42)

57. Which of the following is a strength of telephone surveying?
- a. It often elicits more honest responses to controversial issues.
  - b. It does not involve an actual person to give the survey.
  - c. It focuses on a small pool of respondents.
  - d. People can hang up before the interview is completed.

(Factual; answer: a; page 43)

58. A major limitation of surveys that use mailed questionnaires is
- a. a low response rate.
  - b. problems with the U.S. postal service actually delivering the surveys.
  - c. surveyors making up responses for the respondents.
  - d. respondents adding their own comments to the survey.

(Factual; answer: a; page 43)

59. \_\_\_\_\_ research studies individuals or small groups of people who seek help from mental health officials and other scientists.

- a. Survey
- b. Participant
- c. Clinical
- d. Qualitative

(Conceptual; answer: c; page 44)

60. A traditional approach used by social workers, psychologists, clinical sociologists, and marriage counselors, which provides in-depth information and detailed and vivid descriptions of family life, is called the \_\_\_\_\_ method.

- a. small group
- b. participant observation
- c. case study
- d. focused detail

(Conceptual; answer: c; page 44)

61. One limitation of clinical research and case studies is that clinicians typically see people who

- a. have fairly minor problems.
- b. are relatively healthy.
- c. are being forced to seek help.
- d. are financially able to seek help.

(Factual; answer: d; page 44)

62. The research method where researchers collect data by observing people in their natural surroundings is called \_\_\_\_\_ research.

- a. clinical
- b. survey
- c. objective
- d. field

(Conceptual; answer: d; page 44)

63. In \_\_\_\_\_, researchers interact naturally with the people they are studying, but do not reveal their identities as researchers.

- a. participant observation
- b. non-participant observation
- c. survey research
- d. clinical research

(Conceptual; answer: a; page 45)

64. One limitation of field research is that
- it tends to be inflexible.
  - it can be expensive.
  - researchers tend to be too detached from their subjects.
  - researchers can only study a small number of subjects.

(Factual; answer: b; page 45-46)

65. Which of the following is an example of secondary data?
- conversations between couples
  - children playing together on a playground
  - diaries
  - group interviews

(Applied; answer: c; page 46)

66. In most cases, secondary analysis is
- accessible.
  - convenient.
  - inexpensive.
  - all of the above

(Factual; answer: d; page 46)

67. Secondary data are often \_\_\_\_\_, that is, the information is collected at two or more points in time.
- cross-sectional
  - longitudinal
  - univariate
  - multivariate

(Conceptual; answer: b; page 46)

68. Which of the following is not a limitation of secondary research?
- Secondary data may not provide all the information needed.
  - Historical materials may be fragile or difficult to obtain.
  - Determining the accuracy and authenticity of historical documents may be difficult.
  - Data analysis is often expensive.

(Factual; answer: d; page 46)

69. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ is a controlled artificial situation that allows researchers to manipulate variables and measure their effects.
- survey
  - focus group
  - interview
  - experiment

(Conceptual; answer: d; page 46)

70. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ states that one specified variable “causes” another specified variable.
- a. theory
  - b. hypothesis
  - c. educated guess
  - d. sample

(Conceptual; answer: b; page 46)

71. In the \_\_\_\_\_ group, the subjects are exposed to the independent variable.
- a. static
  - b. control
  - c. experimental
  - d. hypothetical

(Conceptual; answer: c; page 46)

72. In the \_\_\_\_\_ group, the subjects are not exposed to the independent variable.
- a. static
  - b. control
  - c. experimental
  - d. hypothetical

(Conceptual; answer: b; page 46)

73. One disadvantage of laboratory experiments is that they
- a. tend to be expensive.
  - b. cannot be replicated.
  - c. are time consuming.
  - d. tend to rely on student volunteers or paid subjects.

(Factual; answer: d; page 47)

74. Research that assesses the efficiency and effectiveness of social programs in both the public and private sectors is called
- a. survey research.
  - b. participant observation.
  - c. secondary analysis.
  - d. evaluation research.

(Conceptual; answer: d; page 47)

75. According to the text's discussion of some basic principles of ethical family research,
- a. researchers do not need to obtain participant's consent to be in the study as long as they can show that no harm will come to them.
  - b. ethical violations in research usually have no effect on families.
  - c. researchers need to describe the limitations and shortcomings of their research in published reports.
  - d. confidentiality is usually not an issue with family research.

(Factual; answer: c; page 49)

76. Which data collection method is more susceptible than the others to ethical violations?
- a. field research
  - b. surveys
  - c. secondary analysis
  - d. content analysis

(Factual; answer: a; page 49)

### **True and False**

77. People tend to trust public opinion polls more than scientific studies.

(Factual; answer: False; page 29)

78. Most people "always" check the source or the date of the health information they find online.

(Factual; answer: False; page 29)

79. Self-help books often reinforce gender stereotypes.

(Factual; answer: False; page 31)

80. Researchers typically use more than one theoretical framework in examining any given topic because each perspective involves seeing the world differently.

(Factual; answer: True; page 32)

81. Structural-functionalism examines the relationship between the family and the larger society.  
(Conceptual; answer: True; page 32)

82. Providing food and shelter for the family is an example of an "expressive role."

(Applied; answer: False; page 32)

83. Latent functions are unintended and unrecognized.



(Conceptual; answer: True; page 33)

84. Structural functionalism is useful in understanding how families interact on a daily basis.

(Conceptual; answer: False; page 34)

85. Conflict theorists see conflict as natural, inevitable, and often desirable.

(Conceptual; answer: True; page 34)

86. For conflict theorists, families perpetuate social stratification.

(Conceptual; answer: True; page 34)

87. Conflict theorists view many family problems as resulting from individual shortcomings.

(Conceptual; answer: False; page 34)

88. A core issue for feminist family scholars is gender inequality and how it intersects with race, ethnicity, and social class.

(Conceptual; answer: True; page 35)

89. Feminist scholars tend to dismiss fathers as unimportant to family well-being.

(Conceptual; answer: False; page 35)

90. Andrew and Claire's grandparents came to visit for the holidays. Grandparents are part of what the Ecological perspective refers to as the mesosystem.

(Applied; answer: True; page 36)

91. Dani's father lost his job in the last recession putting a financial strain on the family. According to the Ecological perspective this demonstrates how the microsystem affects family life.

(Applied; answer: False; page 36)

92. According to the Family Development perspective, the family life cycle begins when we are born.

(Conceptual; answer: False; page 36)

93. According to the Family Development perspective, developmental stages and tasks vary in different kinds of families, such as single-parent families, childless couples, stepfamilies, etc.

(Conceptual; answer: True; page 36)

94. Kin-time is the shared understanding among family members of when and in what sequence kin-work should be performed.

(Conceptual; answer: True; page 37)

95. Symbolic interactionists examine how our ideas, beliefs and attitudes shape our daily lives, as well as those of our families.

(Conceptual; answer: True; page 38)

96. According to symbolic interactionists, roles are relational, or complementary, because they are connected to other roles.

(Conceptual; answer: True; page 38)

97. One of the most common criticisms of symbolic interactionism is that it focuses too much on macro-level factors that affect family relationships, e.g. poor single mothers raising children in unsafe neighborhoods.

(Conceptual; answer: False; page 38)

98. Social exchange perspective proposes that people seek through their interactions with others to maximize their rewards and minimize their costs.

(Conceptual; answer: True; page 39)

99. Social exchange theorist would predict that Marie would stay married to Tom even if she is unhappy if she is more worried that a divorce will leave her unable to financially care for her children.

(Applied; answer: True; page 39)

100. Critics have accused exchange theorists of putting too much weight on irrational behavior.

(Factual; answer: False; page 39)

101. A family systems theorist would be interested in studying how a family adjusts after a parent loses a job.

(Conceptual; answer: True; page 40)

102. In qualitative research, researchers examine nonnumerical material that they then interpret.

(Conceptual; answer: True; page 41)

103. Analyzing photographs is an example of doing quantitative research.

(Applied; answer: False; page 41)

104. Quantitative research methods tend to be better than qualitative research methods in answer social science questions.

(Conceptual; answer: False; page 41)

105. The benefit of using a nonprobability sample is that the results of the research can be generalized to the population from which it was drawn.

(Conceptual; answer: False; page 41)

106. CNN asks its viewers to email or call in their opinion on the issue of the day. Their findings can be generalized to the overall U.S. population because they are using a probability sample.

(Applied; answer: False; page 41)

107. Online surveys are better for asking sensitive questions than face-to-face surveys.

(Factual; answer: True; page 42)

108. Focus groups are especially useful in obtaining in-depth information on relatively new topics or understudied populations.

(Factual; answer: True; page 42)

109. Surveys are usually inexpensive, easy to administer, and have a fast turnaround rate.

(Factual; answer: True; page 43)

110. Face-to-face interviews often elicit more honest responses than telephone interviews.

(Factual; answer: False; page 43)

111. One problem with clinical research is that they typically see only people with severe problems or those who are willing and financially able to seek help making the results less representative of average families or even troubled families.

(Factual; answer: True; page 44)

112. Field researchers always hide their identities from their subjects so as not to affect their behavior.

(Conceptual; answer: False; page 45)

113. Field research tends to be less flexible than other types of research.

(Factual; answer: False; page 45)

114. The U.S. Census Bureau is a source of secondary data for many researchers.

(Factual; answer: True; page 46)

115. A researcher who surveys a group of undergraduates about their drinking behaviors of their friends and then analyzes the results is doing secondary data analysis.

(Applied; answer: False; page 46)

116. Secondary data analysis is usually accessible, convenient, and inexpensive.

(Factual; answer: True; page 46)

117. Experimental family research is common because it is fairly easy to assign subjects to control and experimental groups.

(Factual; answer: False; page 47)

118. Experiments tend to be expensive and time consuming.

(Factual; answer: False; page 47)

119. One disadvantage of laboratory experiments is their reliance on student volunteers or paid respondents.

(Factual; answer: True; page 47)

120. Evaluation research is a valuable tool because it examines actual efforts to deal with problems that confront many families.

(Factual; answer: True; page 47)

121. Field research and experiments are less vulnerable to ethical violations than surveys and content analysis because researchers who interact with their subjects feel more compelled to protect their subjects from harm.

(Factual; answer: False; page 49)

122. Social scientists seem to be less likely than medical scientists to engage in unethical behavior.

(Factual; answer: True; page 49)

123. People are more likely to believe research on sensitive social, moral, or political topics when the findings demonstrate how their personal beliefs are incorrect.

(Factual; answer: False; page 49-50)

### **Short Answer**

124. List the five serious problems created by self-help books and articles.

They can threaten relationships. They can make people feel inadequate. They often reinforce gender stereotypes. They may oversimplify complex problems. They generalize limited findings.

(Factual; page 31)

125. What are some of the benefits of online surveys?

1) They can ask many people lots of questions cheaply and quickly. 2) Because respondents can choose when to take the survey and how much time to devote to each question, they are more likely to provide thoughtful answers. 3) Researchers can ask sensitive questions because respondents aren't being queried face-to-face. 4) Marketers can use the Web's video capabilities to ask respondents what they think of a new ad campaign or image of a product.

(Factual; page 42)

126. What are some of the limitations of online surveys?

1) Respondents haven't been chosen randomly and don't represent a population so the results can't be generalized. 2) Research firms often reward participants with incentives which generates self-selected groups. 3) Internet usage varies greatly by factors such as social class and age. 4) Marketing research can be deceptive.

(Factual; page 42)

### **Essay**

127. Suppose you are interested in studying teen suicide. Compare how the Ecological and the Family Development perspectives might approach this issue.

The Ecological Perspective stresses the importance of understanding the relationships between individuals and the social environments that shape human development. This theory posits that there are four interlocking systems that can help or hinder a child's development and a family's functioning. This theory would analyze teen suicide by trying to understand how and how well the teen interacted with his or her parents (the microsystem), how and how well the teen interacted with his or her peers and teachers (the mesosystem), whether or not the teen's parents worked, how TV and music portrayed suicide and teen life, the type of neighborhood the teen lived in (the exosystem), and the effect of the overall culture and economy on the teen's life (the macrosystem).

The Family Development Perspective examines the changes that families experience over their lifespan. It posits that the family transitions through a series of stages, accomplishing a number of developmental tasks at each stage. This theory might analyze teen suicide as the failure to transition from one stage to the next or to accomplish the necessary developmental tasks. For example, during the adolescent years, the teen may not learn to handle the stress of balancing school, family, and work or may be fearful of making the transition to adulthood. Parents may not be accomplishing their developmental tasks in that work / family conflicts may prevent them from acting as parents who guide their children. The theory may also look at how divorce and single parenting may affect the transition of the teen and the parents through each stage.

(Applied; pages 35-38)

128. Suppose you were interested in studying the impact of domestic violence on its victims. Which method of data collection would you use – survey, clinical or field research? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the method you chose?

**Survey Research:** Using this method the student could collect information through questionnaires or interviews. Questionnaires could be mailed to victims of domestic violence, given by telephone or face-to-face. A major issue with using this method would be how to select a sample. The population of domestic violence victims would be very large and also difficult to identify. The student would probably have to use a nonprobability sample by either choosing victims who had gone to shelters or had come in contact with the police by reporting the domestic violence or a medical facility. These victims may or may not be representative of all victims of domestic violence, especially those who never report the violence. Mailing questionnaires to shelters would be inexpensive, however the response rate might be very low. Telephone interviews with victims at a shelter might be possible if the shelter gives permission. Face-to-face interviews with victims, either at a shelter or at a hospital or police station, should produce higher response rates and also allow the student to record the respondents' nonverbal behaviors during the survey. With face-to-face or telephone interviews, the student can also clarify questions for the respondent, or provide probes or prompts if the respondent seems reluctant to answer. A drawback of face-to-face interviews is that they can be very expensive in terms of time and money.

**Clinical Research:** Using this method, the student could interview victims of domestic violence who get counseling for it. Students could also observe the victims during the counseling sessions. As the counseling might also include the abuser, the student could observe

the interactions between the abuser and the victim during the session. Using the case study method, the student could gather much in-depth information about the victim and the victim's family life. A weakness of this approach is that it is time consuming and expensive. There is also the issue of representativeness, as not all victims of domestic violence seek or can afford counseling. Also, the method may be too subjective, relying too much on victims' self-reports.

Field Research: Using this method, the student would try to observe victims in their natural surroundings. Doing so in the victim's home would probably be very difficult, but the student might observe at a shelter, police station or hospital. The student could observe how the victim acts and communicates in that setting. The student could be a participant observer in which he or she does not reveal that he or she is a researcher. For example, the student could act as a nurse or a counselor. The student could also do nonparticipant observation in which he or she observes the behavior of victims but does not interact with them. A strength of this method would be that the student could get in-depth understanding of the victims through observing their actual behavior, rather than relying on self-reports as with surveys. The student can also decide to interview the subjects about their experiences, thereby gathering more information. A weakness of this method is that it can be very expensive and time consuming. It can be very difficult to balance participating and observing, especially if the student felt like he or she wanted to help the victims. Also, field research can be subjective in that the student's biases for or against the victims may color what and how they make their observations.

(Applied; pages 41-46)

129. You want to study interactions between young children and their parents. You have access to a day care where there are one-way mirrors allowing you to observe the children without anyone knowing you are there. You decide you will sit behind one of these mirrors and observe interactions between parents and children in the morning during drop-off and again in the evening when the children are picked up. What should you do to make sure that your study is ethical?

If the researcher wants to engage in ethical research, he or she must not sit behind the mirror without anyone knowing about it. Even if the children will never know the researcher is there, the researcher must get permission from the parents for themselves and their children to be part of the study. Also, the researcher should guarantee that information gathered about the parents and children remains confidential. The researcher cannot coerce the parents into giving permission by telling them that their children will not be able to come to the day care center if they do not participate. The researcher needs to be as accurate as possible in making his or her observations and careful of the potential biases that are part of field research, e.g. the researcher may like some children and/or parents more than others and view that interaction more positively. Lastly, the researcher needs to describe the potential limitations of the research in any reports.

(Applied; page 48-49)