Sample Test

This sample test is provided to show you the types of questions that you can expect on the tests you take in my Psychology 320 classes. The content of this sample test is similar to the content of your first test (chapters 1-3) so reviewing this test might also aid in learning the content pertinent to your first test. This is the only sample test that I will provide through the entire semester. Each of your tests will cover three chapters, and will consist of 50 questions (approximately 17 questions per chapter). You will need a Scantron form for each test (#882).

1. Which of the following questions would a social psychologist be least likely to study?
   [A] Have attitudes toward gun control in the U.S. changed in the last five years?
   [B] What kinds of persuasion techniques are the most effective?
   [C] Why do people sometimes sabotage their own performance?
   [D] What qualities do people look for in a romantic partner or friendship?

2. Sociologists tend to study behavior at the _____ level, whereas social psychologists study behavior at the _____ level.
   [A] interpersonal; cultural
   [B] specific; general
   [C] social; cognitive
   [D] group; individual

3. Astrid has developed a questionnaire to help her identify individuals who tend to be high or low in altruism across a variety of situations. Astrid is most likely a _____ psychologist.
   [A] clinical
   [B] cognitive
   [C] social
   [D] personality

4. Scientific research in social psychology began around the end of the
   [A] 1600’s.
   [B] 1700’s.
   [C] 1800’s.
   [D] 1900’s.

5. Among the following social psychologists, who was one of the original founders of social psychology?
   [A] Norman Triplett
   [B] Stanley Milgram
   [C] Philip Zimbardo
   [D] Michael Norton
6. Which of the following is *least* characteristic of research in social psychology between the 1930s and 1950s?
[A] The use of experimentation in research
[B] An emphasis on the application of social psychology to practical concerns
[C] An integration of social and cognitive processes that determine behavior
[D] Attention to the topics of conformity and prejudice

7. All of the following are characteristic of the field of social psychology today *except*
[A] an interest in the way cognition and motivation interact.
[B] a concern for the lack of ethical standards in research.
[C] an integration of biological and social perspectives.
[D] an emphasis on the role of culture in shaping behavior.

8. The role of natural selection processes in the development of social behavior is a concern in
[A] evolutionary psychology.
[B] personality psychology.
[C] behavioral genetics.
[D] social cognition.

9. Which of the following provides the best definition of the overconfidence phenomenon as we discussed it in class?
[A] Never experiencing any life disappointment can lead to unrealistic optimism.
[B] It is difficult to remember your previous state of ignorance once you know something.
[C] Humans are often more confident than correct in terms of what they know.
[D] People tend to take too much credit for successes and not enough for failures.

10. Which of the following individuals had the greatest influence on the field of social psychology?
[A] Hitler
[B] Mussolini
[C] Churchill
[D] Roosevelt

11. Which of the following was *not* mentioned in class as a current/future emphasis in social psychology?
[A] cross-cultural research
[B] research on political issues
[C] applications of social psychological research
[D] research on cognitive processes
12. Sebastian is learning about research methods in his social psychology course. Which of the following benefits is he least likely to experience?
[A] It will improve his reasoning about everyday events.
[B] He will develop a better appreciation for the advantages of uncontrolled anecdotal observations.
[C] The findings he learns about in class will be easier to understand and remember.
[D] He will become a more critical consumer of information in general.

13. A hypothesis is to a theory as
[A] generativity is to application.
[B] simplicity is to complexity.
[C] testability is to untestability.
[D] specificity is to comprehensiveness.

14. The most important aspect of a sample in a survey study is
[A] the extent to which the sample in this study matches the population proportionally in terms of demographic variables.
[B] its inclusion of equal numbers of individuals from different groups in the population.
[C] the ratio of the sample size to the population size.
[D] the number of people in the sample.

15. Luke would like to know if there is a relationship between the number of psychology courses people take and their level of empathy. He surveys a randomly selected group of college students. Each student indicates the number of psychology courses he or she has taken and then completes an empathy scale. Luke’s research is best described as a(n)
[A] prospective study.
[B] experiment.
[C] archival study.
[D] correlational study.

16. Which of the following correlation coefficients reflects the strongest meaningful relationship?
[A] +0.86
[B] 0.67
[C] +1.25
[D] 0

17. Random assignment is a defining feature of an experiment. It means that
[A] participants were randomly selected from the population of interest.
[B] participants are able to select the particular experimental manipulations they wish to experience.
[C] whether participants are in one condition or another is determined randomly.
[D] participants are assigned to the experimental conditions on the basis of their pre-existing differences.
18. When researchers find that the results of their studies could have occurred by chance only 5 or fewer times in 100 possible outcomes, they conclude that the results [A] are theoretically meaningful.  
[B] reflect an interaction between the dependent variables.  
[C] are null because of their low level of reliability.  
[D] are statistically significant.

19. Joel argues that the use of confederates provides for real interactions that emulate the types of reactions that occur in real life. Dale argues that the use of confederates simply makes an experiment more involving for the participant. Which of the following is true?  
[A] Joel and Dale both believe that confederates increase mundane realism.  
[B] Joel believes that confederates increase experimental realism; Dale believes that confederates increase mundane realism.  
[C] Joel believes that confederates increase mundane realism; Dale believes that confederates increase experimental realism.  
[D] Joel and Dale both believe that confederates increase experimental realism.

20. Sascha conducts an experiment in which her subjects pull on a rope either with several others or alone. She wants to see what effect others have on the amount of effort the subjects put into the task. Which of the following would not be an extraneous variable in this experiment?  
[A] the strength of the subjects pulling on the rope  
[B] the number of others pulling on the rope  
[C] the gender of the subjects whose effort is being monitored  
[D] the gender of the others pulling on the rope

21. Subject variables are a type of  
[A] control variable.  
[B] independent variable.  
[C] dependent variable.  
[D] extraneous variable.

22. According to self-perception theory, when people are uncertain about their thoughts or feelings regarding an activity, they will  
[A] think about their self-schemas and decide whether the behavior is congruent or incongruent with the self-schema before engaging in the activity.  
[B] infer their thoughts and feelings from what others tell them about their engagement in the activity.  
[C] focus on past behavior that relates to the current activity to make inferences about their thoughts and feelings regarding the activity.  
[D] infer their thoughts and feelings regarding that activity from their behavior.
23. Which of the following is most consistent with the facial feedback hypothesis?
[A] Although facial expressions can influence emotions, they do not produce any real physiological changes.
[B] Facial expressions can trigger and magnify emotional states.
[C] In order for facial expressions to evoke a corresponding emotion, people must be aware of their outward expression.
[D] Facial expressions are necessary for the experience of emotion.

24. Juan is from a collectivist culture. He is most likely to
[A] describe himself with personality traits and derive personal satisfaction from the status of a valued group.
[B] identify himself by group affiliations and derive personal satisfaction from the status of a valued group.
[C] describe himself with personality traits and strive for personal achievement.
[D] identify himself by group affiliations and strive for personal achievement.

25. When people are self-focused, they
[A] have a lower incidence of alcoholism, anxiety, and other clinical disorders.
[B] tend to behave in ways that are consistent with their personal standards.
[C] are less likely to find themselves in a bad mood.
[D] exhibit temporary increases in self-esteem.

26. Research concerning private and public self-consciousness shows that people who are
[A] publicly self-conscious are motivated to meet their own internal standards.
[B] privately self-conscious are very aware of their internal body states.
[C] publicly self-conscious are quicker to make self-descriptive statements.
[D] privately self-conscious are very sensitive to the extent to which others share their opinions.

27. Jerome is trying to lose weight. His roommate keeps a stash of peanut butter cups in the refrigerator. Jerome has little willpower over his urge to eat peanut butter cups. Given the research regarding ironic processes, Jerome is most likely to think about the peanut butter cups if he tells himself
[A] to think about them, but then is distracted by something else.
[B] not to think about them and is distracted by something else.
[C] not to think about them over and over.
[D] not to think about them and is not distracted by something else.

28. When people change their behavior in response to self-presentation concerns or various situations, they probably exhibit a high level of
[C] self-esteem.
[D] self-verification.
29. A young boy is an avid Mets fan. He reads the statistics for the team in the newspaper every day and goes to Shea Stadium a couple of times each summer to see the Mets play. After a particularly bad losing streak, the boy decides that he likes the Yankees and starts to root for them. This is an example of
[B] CORFing.
[C] ironic processes.
[D] self-handicapping.

30. Jeanette, who is suffering from breast cancer, is most likely to feel better about her situation if she compares herself to which of these other patients?
[A] Joann, whose breast cancer seems to be in remission and is being sent home
[B] Jillian, who also has breast cancer but is not responding well to treatment
[C] Jewel, who doesn’t have breast cancer and is much younger than Jeanette
[D] Justine, who doesn’t have breast cancer, but is approximately the same age as Jeanette

31. In class, we watched the video on facilitated communication, which was designed to show the
[A] all of the above
[B] many ways that humans self-handicap.
[C] extent to which we are unaware of our own thoughts and actions.
[D] human tendency to evaluate ourselves less positively than others.

32. Relative to individuals with low self-esteem, individuals with high self-esteem are
[A] less likely to benefit from social comparisons.
[B] more likely to react to rejection violently.
[C] more likely to have realistic appraisals of themselves.
[D] more likely to engage in self-handicapping.

Answers:

1. A
2. D
3. D
4. C
5. A
6. C
7. B
8. A
9. C
10. A
11. B
12. B
13. D
14. A
15. D
16. A
17. C
18. D
19. C
20. B
21. B
22. D
23. B
24. B
25. B
26. B
27. B
28. A
29. B
30. B
31. C
32. B