

Examples of Short Answer Items
Chapter 1 & 2

These items are not intended to serve as a complete review of the course material. The intent is to give you examples of the types of questions that may appear on exams. Sample answers appear at the end.

1. Identify the type of study (observational, survey, archival) (1 point)

An investigator goes to an elementary school and records the size of the play groups that boys and girls form at recess.

This is a(n) _____ study.

2. Identify the independent and dependent variables in this experiment. (2 points)

In a study on body language, a researcher has participants come in for a mock interview. Each participant is seated across from the interviewer and is asked 10 standardized questions. In half the interviews the interviewer leans back in his chair. In the other half of the interviews, the interviewer leans forward in his chair. Each interview is recorded so the length of each participant's answer (number of words spoken) can be measured.

Independent variable _____

Dependent variable _____

3. The researcher in item 2 has to determine which participants will be exposed to the different levels of the independent variable. In an experiment the procedure that should be used is: (1 point)

4. Although there are advantages to using self-report measures, there are also disadvantages. Identify one disadvantage. Provide enough detail that I can clearly assess your understanding. (2 points)

5. The text identifies 6 big ideas or lessons of social psychology (also reviewed in lecture). What is one of those big ideas or lessons? (1 point)

6. Personality and social psychology complement each other. Whereas personality psychology focuses on how internal attributes influence behavior, social psychology is more likely to focus on the effect of _____ on behavior. (1 point)

7. Researchers found that the more television children watched, the more the children weighted.

This describes a _____ correlation. (Hint: direction, not strength). (1 point)

8. When the researchers from #7 discuss the correlation, they suggest that watching television may lead children to be inactive so they do not burn many calories, thus the children gain weight. In other words, the researchers suggest that A may cause B (television causes weight gain). Can you think of a B may cause A or a third variable C may cause both A and B explanation for the correlation? (2 points)

9. What is self-handicapping? Be specific. (2 points)

10. Veronica says to herself, "I must be attractive because whenever I go out, men come over to talk to me." Veronica is using the men's reaction to her as a "mirror" to perceive herself. (1 point)

The term Cooley had for this was: _____

11. According to Higgins we may feel guilt or resentment if our actual self is discrepant (i.e. doesn't match) our _____ self. (1 point)

12. A person who believes that success in life is a matter of luck has an _____ locus of control (1 point).

13. According to Tesser's theory of self-relevance, when will another person's success lead to envy? Use an example to illustrate your explanation. (2 points)

Sample answers

1. Identify the type of study (observational, survey, archival) (1 point)

An investigator goes to an elementary school and records the size of the play groups that boys and girls form at recess.

This is a(n) **observational** study.

2. Identify the independent and dependent variables in this experiment. (2 points)

In a study on body language, a researcher has participants come in for a mock interview. Each participant is seated across from the interviewer and is asked 10 standardized questions. In half the interviews the interviewer leans back in his chair. In the other half of the interviews, the interviewer leans forward in his chair. Each interview is recorded so the length of each participant's answer (number of words spoken) can be measured.

Independent variable **Whether the interviewer leans forward or back in his chair**

Dependent variable **The length of the participant's answers or number of words spoken.**

3. The researcher in item 2 has to determine which participants will be exposed to the different levels of the independent variable. In an experiment the procedure that should be used is: (1 point)

Random assignment

4. Although there are advantages to using self-report measures, there are also disadvantages. Identify one disadvantage. Provide enough detail that I can clearly assess your understanding. (2 points)

One disadvantage is that people want to look good so they may lie to protect their image.

Other examples of acceptable answers include: "People may not be able to give accurate answers either because they lack the necessary self-knowledge or they don't remember". "How questions are asked or worded can affect answers given."

5. The text identifies 6 big ideas or lessons of social psychology (also reviewed in lecture). What is one of those big ideas or lessons? (1 point)

ONE of these:

- ***We construct our own social reality (or each person may interpret situations differently)***
- ***Social intuitions or gut reactions are powerful, but we can also make mistakes***
- ***Social influences including other people can influence our behavior***
- ***Personal attitudes or opinions and personality can influence our behavior***
- ***Social behavior also has biological roots***
- ***Ideas from social psychology can apply to everyday life.***

6. Personality and social psychology complement each other. Whereas personality psychology focuses on how internal attributes influence behavior, social psychology is more likely to focus on the effect of

External factors or social situations on behavior. (1 point)

7. Researchers found that the more television children watched, the more the children weighted.

This describes a **positive** correlation. (Hint: direction, not strength). (1 point)

8. When the researchers from #7 discuss the correlation, they suggest that watching television may lead children to be inactive so they do not burn many calories, thus the children gain weight. In other words, the researchers suggest that A may cause B (television causes weight gain). Can you think of a B may cause A or a third variable C may cause both A and B explanation for the correlation? (2 points)

Examples of acceptable answers:

- ***Children who are overweight may watch more TV than children who are normal weight. Maybe overweight children are teased when they play more active games with other children. To avoid being teased the overweight children stay home and watch TV. Thus being overweight comes first.***
- ***Children who have parents who work may have to stay home until their parents return home. That is, they aren't allowed to go out to activities on their own. Being stuck at home, they watch television. The parents are also not home to supervise what the children eat and the kids eat high calorie junk food rather than healthier foods, so they gain weight.***

NOT acceptable:

- ***Kids who watch TV see many food commercials, so they are encouraged to eat. The extra eating causes them to gain weight. (This is unacceptable because it is another A may cause B explanation. Although the idea has merit, it's not what the question is asking for.)***
- ***Kids who play activity based video games (e.g., Wii tennis) will weigh less. (This is unacceptable because it is arguing that the data shows a negative correlation. The point of the question is for you to discuss the positive correlation.)***

9. What is self-handicapping? Be specific. (2 points)

Self-handicapping is doing something that sabotages your performance on a task so that you have an excuse for poor performance. For example, if you go out and party instead of studying for an exam, you won't do well on the exam. When you get your low grade, you'll explain it by saying it's because you partied.

10. Veronica says to herself, "I must be attractive because whenever I go out, men come over to talk to me." Veronica is using the men's reaction to her as a "mirror" to perceive herself. (1 point)

The term Cooley had for this was: **looking glass self**

11. According to Higgins we may feel guilt or resentment if our actual self is discrepant (i.e. doesn't match) our ought self. (1 point)
12. A person who believes that success in life is a matter of luck has an external locus of control. (1 point).
13. According to Tesser's theory of self-relevance, when will another person's success lead to envy? Use an example to illustrate your explanation. (2 points)

You will be envious of someone else's success if the success is relevant to your own self-concept. For example, I have a brother who is a good athlete. Athletic ability is not an important part of my self-concept, so I can simply be proud of his skills. My sister, on the other hand, has strong academic skills – she's a brainiac! Academic skills are an important part of my self-concept. So for her to do better than me in this area makes me a bit jealous. It doesn't help that we were often compared to each other growing up.