

Chapter 01-What Is Social Psychology?

Multiple Choice

1. Social psychologists typically
- focus their studies on socioeconomic class and race.
 - use the scientific method in their research.
 - avoid studying individuals in favor of groups.
 - view behavior in the same ways as sociologists.

ANSWER: b

2. Which of the following questions would a social psychologist be *most* likely to study?
- Is there a link between social environment of one's upbringing and his/her cognitive abilities?
 - What risk factors contribute to the onset of schizophrenia?
 - Is there a link between playing violent video games and engaging in aggressive behavior?
 - What is the relationship between race and ethnicity?

ANSWER: c

3. The scientific study of how individuals think, feel, and behave when in the real, implied, or imagined presence of others is called ____ psychology.
- clinical
 - social
 - developmental
 - interactive

ANSWER: b

4. Social psychology is all the following *except*
- a science addressing a diverse set of topics.
 - the study of how people think, feel, and behave in the presence of others.
 - a compilation of anecdotal observations and case studies.
 - an approach applying the scientific method.

ANSWER: c

5. What makes social psychology unique?
- The study of group factors contributing to the functioning of social institutions
 - The study of race relations in a social context
 - The emphasis on classification of people in terms of socioeconomic class
 - The emphasis on the social nature of individuals

ANSWER: d

6. The question, "When is a bystander more or less likely to help you in an emergency?" examines which major domain of social psychology?
- Social perception
 - Social cognition

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- c. Social influence
- d. Social interaction

ANSWER: d

7. Social psychology differs from history and philosophy in its
- a. attention to the scientific method.
 - b. concern with human behavior.
 - c. greater focus on cultural influences.
 - d. more narrowly defined areas of interest.

ANSWER: a

8. Anita wants to spend her career studying the factors that predict whether the members of a couple are satisfied with their marriage. If she chooses to do so as a social psychologist, it is likely that her pursuit will
- a. focus more on the thoughts of various couples than on their actual behavior.
 - b. emphasize the importance of different personality types of couples.
 - c. examine groups rather than individuals as the unit of analysis.
 - d. include systematic observation, description, and measurement of couples.

ANSWER: d

9. Which of the following statements describes a central characteristic of social psychology?
- a. Social psychology uses historical events as its primary source of data.
 - b. Social psychology assumes that thoughts and behaviors are influenced by other people.
 - c. Social psychology focuses more on the behavior of groups than on that of individuals.
 - d. Social psychology emphasizes the solitary nature of human behavior.

ANSWER: b

10. Which of the following statements is true of social psychology?
- a. A goal of social psychology is to develop general principles that describe human behavior.
 - b. An assumption of social psychology is that only social factors influence human behavior.
 - c. Social psychology argues that implied or imagined presence of others never influence individuals.
 - d. Social psychology focuses exclusively on subconscious thoughts of human beings.

ANSWER: a

11. A social psychologist would be *least* likely to conduct a study examining the effect of
- a. sleep on the ability to concentrate.
 - b. temperature on highway shootings.
 - c. political attitudes on friendship formation.
 - d. academic performance on self-esteem.

ANSWER: a

12. Sarunas is a social psychologist. He is probably *most* interested in reading about a study demonstrating the effects of

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- a. similarity of attitudes on interpersonal attraction.
- b. immigration patterns on stock market activity.
- c. distraction of attention to a visual display.
- d. narcotic substances on neurotransmitter activity in the brain.

ANSWER: a

13. Courses in social psychology are most often required for students majoring in
- a. biological sciences.
 - b. journalism.
 - c. performing arts.
 - d. philosophy.

ANSWER: b

14. Walton and colleagues (2015) studied students in an engineering program, focusing on specific factors related to first year grade point averages (GPAs). They found that women's GPAs were very similar to men's when
- a. the students received the brief information designed to counter concerns about belonging.
 - b. academic advisors were trained in avoiding gender stereotypes in class assignments.
 - c. professors were recorded giving class lectures to help them identify unequal behaviors.
 - d. residence hall advisors were instructed to "urge" females to take more difficult classes.

ANSWER: a

15. Sociologists tend to study behavior at the ____ level, whereas social psychologists study behavior at the ____ level.
- a. group; individual
 - b. interpersonal; cultural
 - c. specific; general
 - d. social; cognitive

ANSWER: a

16. A social psychologist studying the effects of media violence would
- a. conduct experiments manipulating the amount of media violence viewed by participants.
 - b. assess how television availability and murder rates have increased over the last 30 years.
 - c. assess the socioeconomic background of people engaging in violence.
 - d. focus on the types of individuals who choose to view media violence.

ANSWER: d

17. To examine the relationship between economic conditions and violence, Gunther compares the murder rates for counties with different median incomes. Gunther's research *best* characterizes the field of
- a. social psychology.
 - b. clinical psychology.
 - c. anthropology.
 - d. sociology.

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ANSWER: d

18. To examine the relationship between temperature and violence, Priti manipulates the thermostat in her laboratory while participants are engaged in a military simulation game. She then looks at the effect of this manipulation on aggressive behavior during the game, comparing participants in the “warm” condition to those in the “comfortable” condition. Priti’s research *best* characterizes the field of

- a. sociology.
- b. social psychology.
- c. clinical psychology.
- d. anthropology.

ANSWER: b

19. Brad is a social psychologist. Marion is a sociologist. Which of the following research questions is *most* likely of interest to both of them?

- a. How do societal factors influence racial differences in academic achievement?
- b. How does positive and negative feedback impact conceptions of the self?
- c. Do different socioeconomic groups express different political attitudes?
- d. Can an authority figure influence people to act in ways that they normally would not?

ANSWER: a

20. Which of the following statements concerning social psychology and sociology is *false*?

- a. Sociologists tend to study societal level variables, whereas social psychologists focus on more specific and immediate variables.
- b. Social psychology studies human behavior at the level of the individual, whereas sociology studies human behavior at the group level.
- c. Social psychology is a science, whereas sociology concerns artistic and humanistic endeavors.
- d. Sociologists are more likely than social psychologists to rely on experimental studies to study human behavior.

ANSWER: d

21. On certain occasions, social psychologists study

- a. how nationality influences people’s social behavior.
- b. people’s thoughts or feelings about common sense.
- c. people’s thoughts or feelings about nonsocial things.
- d. how intuition influences scientific findings.

ANSWER: c

22. Marilyn is interested in whether individuals with schizophrenia tend to interpret verbal feedback from others as negative even if it is positive. It might be said that Marilyn is doing research at the intersection of social psychology and

- a. evolutionary psychology.
- b. sociology.
- c. personality psychology.
- d. clinical psychology.

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ANSWER: d

23. Although related to other fields, social psychology is distinct in its emphasis on
- using scientific method of systematic observation.
 - classifying and treating psychological disorders.
 - identifying individual characteristics that are relatively stable across time.
 - describing the relationship between common sense and scientific findings.

ANSWER: a

24. Which of the following branches of psychology studies how behaviors of individuals are influenced by other people?
- Clinical psychology
 - Cognitive psychology
 - Personality psychology
 - Social psychology

ANSWER: d

25. The remarkable success of human beings can be traced to their
- physical size and strength in the animal kingdom.
 - ability to focus on their own needs irrespective of what other people think.
 - ability to coordinate with extended networks of other people.
 - aggressive and territorial tendencies.

ANSWER: c

26. Astrid has developed a 12-item questionnaire to help her identify individuals who tend to be skeptical of authority figures across all sorts of different situations. Astrid is *most* likely a ____ psychologist.
- cognitive
 - social
 - clinical
 - personality

ANSWER: d

27. One of the notable aspects of social psychology is that it
- is anecdotal.
 - is scientific.
 - relies on intuition to provide insights.
 - relies on experience to provide insights.

ANSWER: b

28. Hyunwoo is a human resource professional working for an electronics firm. She is studying various researches on group dynamics, and how it can provide the best working condition for an employee. She is most likely to use
- clinical psychology.

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- b. cognitive psychology.
- c. social psychology.
- d. forensic psychology.

ANSWER: c

29. Which of the following statements is true of social psychology?

- a. It mostly relies on anecdotal evidence.
- b. It focuses on studying the human society as a whole.
- c. It can be used by lawyers to support or refute evidence.
- d. It cannot be used in any other fields of study.

ANSWER: c

30. Who among the following can use social psychology in research?

- a. Marlon, who wants to study the relationship between trauma and juvenile delinquency
- b. Jane, who researches on the effect of climate change on human migration
- c. Trevor, who wants to study the mental health of violent criminals in a prison
- d. Marion, who researches on the effect of cross-cultural factors on employees

ANSWER: d

31. The “social context” referred to in social psychology

- a. focuses on group behaviors rather than individual ones.
- b. does not have to be real or present.
- c. does not focus on scientific method of systematic observation.
- d. focuses on people’s nationality, race, and socioeconomic class

ANSWER: b

32. Which of the following branches of psychology can be applied to various other fields such as law, healthcare, business, and academics?

- a. Forensic psychology
- b. Cognitive psychology
- c. Social psychology
- d. Developmental psychology

ANSWER: c

33. Which of the following statements about commonsense explanations and social psychology is the most accurate?

- a. Social psychology typically avoids studying phenomena for which there are widely accepted commonsense explanations.
- b. Commonsense explanations form the basis of nearly all modern social psychological theories.
- c. At least at present, commonsense explanations can more accurately predict behavior than can social psychology.
- d. The scientific approach of social psychology does not always yield results that support commonsense explanations.

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ANSWER: d

34. Social psychological research is a necessary endeavor because our commonsense intuitions
- put their theories to test.
 - often are at opposite ends of each other.
 - rely heavily on critical thinking.
 - are generally accurate but are held with little confidence.

ANSWER: b

35. Social psychology differs from common sense in that
- common sense tends to produce more accurate knowledge about human behavior than social psychology.
 - common sense captures the full complexity of human behavior.
 - social psychology is far more intuitive than common sense.
 - social psychology relies on the scientific method to test its theories.

ANSWER: d

36. The phenomenon that makes people question how social psychology is different from common sense is called the _____ phenomenon.
- “I knew it all along”
 - “science is stupid”
 - “self-superiority”
 - “hale and hearty”

ANSWER: a

37. The field of social psychology emerged as a distinct discipline around the end of the
- 17th century.
 - 18th century.
 - 19th century.
 - 20th century.

ANSWER: c

38. Ringelmann and Triplett are *best* labeled as
- the first researchers to explore conformity.
 - researchers who used anecdotal findings to establish social psychology.
 - pioneers in the field of social cognition.
 - the founders of social psychology.

ANSWER: d

39. Which of the following researchers is regarded as one of the original founders of social psychology?
- Norman Triplett
 - Stanley Milgram

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- c. Michael Norton
- d. Philip Zimbardo

ANSWER: a

40. American psychologist Normal Triplett is credited with which of the following accomplishments?
- a. Emphasizing the use of empiricism in research
 - b. Focusing his writings on larger cultural surroundings
 - c. Noting that people often perform worse when watched
 - d. Publishing the first research article in social psychology

ANSWER: d

41. Which of the following researchers observed that cyclists raced faster in the presence of others than when racing against the clock?
- a. Max Ringelmann
 - b. Norman Triplett
 - c. Floyd Allport
 - d. John Haharwood

ANSWER: b

42. Blaine works in a factory producing car stereos. He notices that workers produce more stereos by the end of the day when they work together in the same room than when they work in separate rooms. His observation is consistent with a classic study conducted by which of the following researchers?

- a. Lewin
- b. Asch
- c. Triplett
- d. Sherif

ANSWER: c

43. "Founders of social psychology" Norman Triplett and Max Ringelmann both performed research that examined
- a. the influence groups exert on their members.
 - b. the impact of the presence of others on performance.
 - c. how behaviors are shaped by perceptions.
 - d. the impact of different leadership strategies on group performance.

ANSWER: b

44. Which of the following events is regarded as having established social psychology as a distinct field of study?
- a. The publication of the first three textbooks in social psychology
 - b. The publication of the first research article in social psychology
 - c. The formation of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
 - d. The introduction of the interactionist perspective to the field of psychology

ANSWER: a

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45. Floyd Allport's social psychology textbook, published in 1924, is credited with
- establishing the field's emphasis on experimentation and the scientific method.
 - imbuing the field with a cross-cultural orientation.
 - introducing the major theories of social psychology.
 - bridging the "hot" and "cold" perspectives on behavior and cognition.

ANSWER: a

46. Which of the following individuals did *not* author one of social psychology's first textbooks?
- William McDougall
 - Muzafer Sherif
 - Edward Ross
 - Floyd Allport

ANSWER: b

47. Annie wants to find the first source that established social psychology as a separate field with an emphasis on experimentation and the scientific method. What should she probably read?
- Allport's (1924) text
 - Ringelmann's (1913) article
 - McDougall's (1908) text
 - Triplet's (1897–1898) article

ANSWER: a

48. According to your text, one of the people who had the greatest impact on the developing field of social psychology was *not* a psychologist. Who was this person?
- Winston Churchill
 - Charles Lindbergh
 - Adolf Hitler
 - Jackie Robinson

ANSWER: c

49. Which of the following historical events sparked great interest in and gave shape to the field of social psychology?
- The Great Depression
 - The U.S. military involvement in Korea
 - The actions of Nazis during World War II
 - The American Civil Rights Movement

ANSWER: c

50. Of the following important figures in the history of social psychology, who *most* explicitly emphasized the importance of making important practical contributions to society?
- Gordon Allport
 - Fritz Heider