

Study Questions, Week 2

(1) What is the scientific method? Describe each step of the scientific method.

(2) Provide a brief definition of the following terms:

- Hypothesis
- Variable
- Independent Variable
- Dependent Variable
- Correlation
- Sample
- Validity
- Reliability
- Control Variable

(3) Explain what is meant by *causal logic*. Describe two examples of causal logic.

(4) What is a *random sample*? Under what conditions might a researcher use a random sample? What is the advantage of using a random sample?

(5) What is the difference between *quantitative* and *qualitative* research? Why would a researcher choose one approach over the other?

(6) What is a *survey*? How do researchers carry out surveys? What are the advantages of using a survey to do research? What are some of the drawbacks?

(7) Some researchers rely on *observation*. How can this be considered research? Describe how a researcher might carry out a participant observation study.

(8) What is *ethnography*? Under what conditions would a researcher choose to use ethnographic methods to do research?

(9) Describe the *experimental method*. Why don't sociologists use experiments very much? What is the value of experiments as a research technique? What are some drawbacks?

(10) What is meant by the *Hawthorne effect*? How does this affect research in the social sciences?

(11) What are the characteristics of *secondary analysis*? What are its advantages and disadvantages as a research method? Describe how one might carry out a *content analysis*.

(12) What, according to Robert Merton, is the goal of social science research? In what ways does empirical research contribute to this general goal?