

## Chapter 4: Understanding research philosophies and approaches

Try the multiple choice questions below to test your knowledge of this chapter. Once you have completed the test, click on 'Submit Answers for Grading' to get your results.

1 Epistemology refers to:

a form of interviewing.

a statistical test.



acceptable knowledge in a field of study.

a software package.

Correct.

2 If your research philosophy reflects the principles of positivism, then you will probably:



adopt the philosophical stance of the natural scientist.

want to be sure that all your answers are beyond dispute.

reject the possibility of working with numbers.

not accept any argument about your research conclusions.

3 Which one of the following is a data collection method?

The onion.

The case study.

☒ The interview.

Positivism.

Correct.

4 Which of these is a philosophical concern for fact or reality and a rejection of the impractical?

Stealthism.

☒ Realism.

Prism.

Unrealism.

Correct.

5 Interpretivism refers to:

☒ an epistemology that advocates that it is necessary for the researcher to understand differences between humans in our role as social actors.

the purely subjective.

an epistemology that advocates that it is advisable for the researcher to

looking at phenomena and making up your own mind about what you are seeing

6 Symbolic interactionism is:



a continual process of interpreting the social world around us

a branch of research philosophy which refers to the study of material artifacts.

a way of looking at the stars.

a famous research methods book.

Correct.

7 Pragmatism argues:



that the most important determinant of the research philosophy adopted is the research question

the art of the possible.

that you adopt the research philosophy that you want.

that you make it up as you go along.

Correct.

8 Recognizing our own values in the pursuit of research is essential because:



it allows us to be honest with ourselves about what may influence our research.

it allows us to eliminate them.

at least we know what we can ignore.

9 The radical change paradigm is:

of little use in management and business research.



a valuable way of adopting a critical stance on organizational life.

only for those who wish to find fault with organizational life.

only the concern of sociologists.

Correct.

10 Defining hypotheses is a useful way of approaching research because:



it allows the development of testable propositions.

it allows for the development of indisputable proof to be established in research findings.

it will impress the reader.

it looks suitably scientific.

Correct.

11 Combining deductive and inductive approaches to research will:

avoid making any difficult decisions.



develop a research approach which fits the research question and objectives.

allows us to sit on the fence.

12

Buchanan et al. (1988:59) argue that 'needs, interests and preferences (of the researcher) . . . are typically overlooked but are central to the progress of fieldwork'. Is this:

a legitimization of the opportunity to exhibit your prejudices?

a possible justification for research approach decisions which are not reflective of the research question and objectives?

a license to do what you like?



a realization that we are likely to sustain or interest longer if we're conducting or research in a way that we prefer?

Correct.

13

The word paradigm means:

a branch of physics.

a type of sampling.



a theoretical framework.

being forced to do something.

14 Carefully study the stages below. Do they refer to Induction or Deduction?

Theory developed  
Hypothesis worded  
Observations made  
Hypothesis tested on data  
Theory revised

☒ Deduction.

Induction.

Correct.

15 Carefully study the stages below. Do they refer to Induction or Deduction?

Observations made  
Theory developed  
Hypothesis worded  
Hypothesis tested on data  
Theory revised

☒ Induction.

Deduction.

Correct.

16 Research philosophy means simply thinking hard about research.

True

☒ False

17 Epistemology concerns what constitutes acceptable knowledge in a field of study.

☒ True

☐ False

Correct.

18 Positivism and interpretivism are research philosophies.

☒ True

☐ False

Correct.

19 The positivist paradigm focuses on the facts or causes.

☒ True

☐ False

Correct.

20 The positivist paradigm focuses on the subjective meaning of the subject under investigation.

☐ True

☒ False

- 21 Realism is about ignoring creativity in research and concentrating on what is real.

True

☒ False

Correct.

- 22 Interpretivism is an epistemology that advocates that it is necessary for the researcher to understand differences between humans in our role as social actors.

☒ True

False

Correct.

- 23 Phenomenology refers to the way in which we as humans understand exceptional events.

True

☒ False

Correct.

- 24 Objectivism portrays the position that social entities exist in reality external to social actors.

☒ True

False



- 25 Paradigm is a term which academics use only in situations where they want to impress others deliberately.

True



False

Correct.

- 26 Which research philosophy is 'better' depends on the research question(s) you are seeking to answer.



True

False

Correct.

- 27 A hypothesis is simply a statement about what might happen.

True



False

Correct.

- 28 In the inductive approach theory would follow data rather than vice versa as with deduction.



True

False

29

Induction is often seen as the alternative to deduction.



True



False

Correct.

30

It is never a good idea to combine deductive and inductive approaches to research. It only leads to confusion.

True



False

Correct.

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