Nachmiass RMSS 8e Chapter 1

1. In a deductive explanation, if the conclusion logically follows from the premises of the explanation, and one or more of the premises is false, the explanation is:

A) valid.

B) strong.

C) sound.

D) weak.

2. People who believe that knowledge is derived purely from intuition are known as:

A) rationalists.

B) authoritarian.

C) empiricists.

D) social scientists.

3. The branch of philosophy concerned with determining the foundations of knowledge is:

A) metaphysics.

B) logic.

C) epistemology.

D) radiology.

4. Knowledge claims that are justified on the basis of rational intuition alone are termed:

A) a priori.

B) metaphysical.

C) a posteriori.

D) mystical.

5. Which statement is NOT an assumption of science?

A) Knowledge is superior to ignorance.

B) Nothing is self-evident.

C) Nature is orderly.

D) All natural phenomenon have natural and supernatural causes.

6. Scientific knowledge that is based on experience/observation is called:

A) common sense.

B) empirical.

C) self-evident.

D) a priori.

7. A scientific explanation that is based upon an established universal law and follows rules of formal logic is called a:

A) deductive explanation.

B) probabilistic explanation.

C) inductive explanation.

D) abductive explanation.

8. Suppose it is a universal law that individuals making less than $20,000 per year vote Democrat, while persons making $20,000 or more vote Republican. Further suppose that John is forced to accept a pay cut from $21,000 to $19,000. Using a deductive explanation, we can say that:

A) it is likely that John will vote Democrat.

B) there is a 50-50 chance that John will vote Republican.

C) John will vote Democrat.

D) other factors must be known before any prediction can be made.

9. A social scientist observes that U.S. senators seek reelection 75% of the time. Jordan is a newly elected senator. Using an inductive explanation, we can say that:

A) Jordan will be an unpopular and ineffective senator.

B) Jordan will not seek reelection.

C) it is likely that Jordan will seek reelection.

D) more information about Jordan must be known before any predictions regarding her reelection can be made.

10. Social science based on the tradition of Verstehen:

A) is axiomatic.

B) applies only to human groups, not to individuals.

C) offers biological explanations of human behavior.

D) stresses empathic understanding.

11. Logical empiricism, as opposed to the Verstehen tradition, takes the position that:

A) objective knowledge of the social world is possible.

B) the subjects of social scientists are less stable than those of natural science.

C) social science research is easier to replicate than that in the natural sciences.

D) the phenomena social scientists study are less reliable than those of natural science.

12. A system of explicit rules and procedures on which research is based and against which claims for knowledge are evaluated is called:

A) scientific knowledge.

B) scientific methodology.

C) epistemology.

D) scientific empiricism.

13. The system of valid reasoning that permits drawing reliable inferences from factual observations is:

A) epistemology.

B) methodology.

C) logic.

D) empiricism.

14. According to Kuhn, normal science is:

A) science within an established paradigm.

B) inductive.

C) science outside of an established paradigm.

D) deductive.

15. According to Kuhn, when scientific revolutions occu:

A) they quickly replace dominant paradigms.

B) they do so in predictable ways.

C) the scientific community is discredited by the general public.

D) they unfold gradually over long periods of time.

16. Which question is NOT an example of constructive criticism?

A) Does the explanation (or prediction) follow logically from the assumptions?

B) Was the testing procedure valid?

C) Is the research question interesting?

D) Did any factors interfere when drawing the conclusions?

17. The activities of the scientist within \_\_\_\_\_ are not constrained by methodology.

A) a context of justification

B) the empirical realm

C) a context of discovery

D) the qualitative realm

18. Karl Popper's \_\_\_\_\_ view of science advocates that there is no dominant paradigm, and the scientific community is more of an open society.

A) descriptive

B) rationalistic

C) empirical

D) prescriptive

19. Intersubjectivity is vital for the scientific process because:

A) it allows other scientists to reexamine earlier observations.

B) it allows other scientists to provide constructive criticism.

C) it provides a platform to replicate the findings of previous studies.

D) all of these answers are correct.

20. The research process is cyclical in that:

A) many problems are studied just once.

B) findings must be continually checked through replication.

C) social scientists borrow from the physical sciences.

D) social scientists study the same phenomena over and over.