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AP Psychology – Cummings - Experimental Design Quiz #1

1. In an experiment examining the impact of uniform color on referees’ perception of aggression in football games, the referees’ perception of aggression is
   1. an extraneous variable
   2. a confounding variable
   3. the independent variable
   4. the dependent variable
   5. the intervening variable
2. Under which of the following conditions were volunteers in Stanley Milgram’s “electric shock” obedience study most likely to obey an authority figure?
   1. When the volunteers were female
   2. When the volunteers were paid
   3. When the authority figure threatened the volunteers with physical harm if they did not obey
   4. When the volunteers were allowed to instruct a second party to actually execute the orders of the authority figure
   5. When the orders given by the authority figure were deemed dangerous by the volunteers
3. Two groups of rats are run in a maze with a food reward. The time that it takes for each rat to reach the goal box is recorded. One group of rats is deprived of food for 24 hours before being run on the maze. The other group is fed 1 hour before the maze trials. All other conditions for the two groups are the same. What is the independent variable in this study?
   1. The time it takes for each rat to reach the goal box
   2. The time since the rats were last fed
   3. The maze trial course
   4. The food reward in the goal box
   5. The random assignment of the rats into two groups
4. An experimenter wants to determine the impact of caffeine on attention span. Which of the following best represents random assignment?
   1. Placing participants into either the caffeine or non-caffeine group without any set pattern
   2. Offering different levels of caffeine to participants
   3. Observing the level of attention exhibited by participants given caffeine
   4. Selecting who will participate in the study and who won’t without any specific pattern
   5. Selecting those who drink caffeine regularly and have built a tolerance to the effects
5. What is the best way for a researcher to avoid unconsciously signaling any point of view to the participants in a study?
   1. Single-blind study
   2. Correlational design
   3. Case study design
   4. Double-blind study
   5. Survey research
6. Professor Ma wants to design a project studying emotional response to date rape. He advertises for participants in the school newspaper, informs them about the nature of the study, gets their consent, conducts an interview, and debriefs them about the results when the experiment is over. If you were on the IRB, what ethical considerations would you most likely have the most concern about in Professor Ma’s study?
   1. Coercion
   2. Deception
   3. Confounding variables
   4. Confidentiality
   5. Clear scientific purpose
7. Some psychologists consider Stanley Milgram’s obedience studies to be unethical because of which ethical consideration?
   1. Improper sampling
   2. Risk of long-term harm
   3. Clear specific guidelines
   4. Debriefing
   5. Confounding variables
8. One-half of general psychology students are assigned the task of completing computer simulations. The remaining half of the students spent an equal amount of time reviewing the text and their lecture notes. Both groups were then tested on the course information. What is the control group?
   1. The students who completed computer simulations
   2. The students who reviewed the text and lecture notes
   3. There is no control group
   4. There is no experimental group
   5. All students who took the exam
9. A testable prediction that drives research is known as a(n)
   1. Theory
   2. Hypothesis
   3. Operational definition
   4. Guess
   5. Random sample
10. A researcher who had a role in designing a new medication for headaches wants to promote it. She unconsciously suggests to those who took her medication that they are feeling better than those who took an alternative medicine. This demonstrates what of the following phenomena?
    1. Spurious correlation
    2. Hindsight bias
    3. Confirmation bias
    4. Placebo effect
    5. Serial position effect

Key:

1. D
2. D --> This one is quite misleading as well. Stanley Milgram’s studied participant obedience to an authority figure. As I reflect, the correct answer, ‘D’ doesn’t quite say that and is, rather, misleading. If you did not indicate D, I will award points regardless.
3. B
4. A
5. D
6. D
7. B
8. A -- > This one caused us lots of issues. The students who completed computer simulations would have been the control group. The computer simulations represent a placebo in a way; a task to keep the participants ‘blind’ to what group they are in, yet it has no educational properties. As I reflect, it’s not a great question, so I will probably strike this one from the assessment and give credit everyone.
9. B
10. C