

**Psy 212- Educational Psychology
Practice Test - Ch. 1**

- 1) Use of the "common sense" approach to teaching is viewed by educational psychologists as
 - A) inappropriate unless supported by research.
 - B) the main factor that differentiates experts from novices.
 - C) more reliable than scientific judgments.
 - D) appropriate in most circumstances.

- 2) When findings in a given area repeatedly support the same conclusion, a(n) _____ can be derived.

- 3) Research that is designed to determine the relations between two variables is a(n) _____ study.

- 4) When a correlation coefficient of -0.80 is found between factor A and factor B, the most accurate interpretation is that
 - A) there is a very weak relationship between the two factors.
 - B) a decrease in factor A is strongly related to an increase in factor B.
 - C) a decrease in factor A is strongly related to a decrease in factor B.
 - D) there is a significant relationship between the two factors.

- 5) Discuss the purposes and procedures of the discipline of educational psychology today. What are the interests of educational psychology with regard to theory vs. application and learning vs. teaching?

- 6) According to the Woolfolk text, which of the following is true of expert teachers?
 - A) They have a limited and focused knowledge base.
 - B) They take more time to solve problems.
 - C) They deal with new events as if they were new problems.
 - D) They are more likely than novices to ignore students' wrong answers.

- 7) Discuss the problems or issues that most concern beginning teachers today. Which of those concerns would be the most important to you personally? Explain your choice(s).

- 8) An explanation of how we remember things that we have learned is called a
 - A) correlation.
 - B) construct.
 - C) theory.
 - D) principle.

- 9) A researcher who becomes a working member of a class over a period of time in order to record and gain understanding of the class dynamics is a(n) _____.

- 10) Broad frameworks that attempt to explain relationships between sets of variables are called _____.

- 11) The major concern of new teachers is that their knowledge of their subjects is limited. A) T B) F

- 12) As teachers' experience grows, they tend to become more likely to judge their success by their students' successes. A) T B) F

- 13) A theory is an explanation of occurrences in a given field. A) T B) F

- 14) Differentiate between expert and novice teachers with regard to the approaches they use to teach knowledge of subject content. Use an example to illustrate how an expert and a novice teacher might approach this type of teaching differently.

- 15) Findings considered statistically unlikely to have occurred by chance are described as _____.

- 16) A statistically significant result in experimental research indicates that the result is a true finding. A) T B) F

- 17) Each person is given an equal opportunity to be in a treatment or control group by means of _____ sampling.
- 18) Most educators believe that teaching is an art that is incapable of being taught or learned. A) T B) F
- 19) The type of research that attempts to establish cause and effect relationships is a(n) _____ study.
- 20) When beginning teachers confront everyday classroom life, they often experience _____.
- 21) The "art vs. science" issue in teaching is probably best answered by the statement that teaching requires
 A) the use of scientific methods. B) learned skills and creativity.
 C) imagination and, therefore, is an art. D) the ability to learn and apply specific rules.
- 22) A case study is an investigation of
 A) people from one geographic area. B) a small group of people with similar backgrounds.
 C) different groups of people over a period of time. D) one person or group over a specific period of time.
- 23) A researcher concludes from his study that, on a typical school day, students spend only 50 percent of their time engaged in learning. What specific type of research must have been conducted in order for this conclusion to be valid?
 A) Experimental B) Descriptive C) Participant-observer D) Single-subject design
- 24) A correlation coefficient indicates the
 A) direction but not the strength of a relationship. B) strength but not the direction of a relationship.
 C) strength and direction of a treatment effect. D) direction and strength of a relationship.
- 25) A researcher reports that students who have the highest test scores in school tend to be more involved in extracurricular activities than are other students. What specific type of research study must have been conducted?
 A) Descriptive B) Ethnographic C) Correlational D) Experimental
- 26) Research by Ogden, Brophy, and Evertson (1977) on selecting primary-grade students to read aloud suggests that the best method is to
 A) call on students at random. B) have students read as a group (choral response).
 C) call on students in a prescribed order. D) ask for volunteers to read.
- 27) Principles are the product of consistency in research findings over time. A) T B) F
- 28) A correlation study indicates that teachers' interest in teaching and the amount of the day their students are engaged in learning correlate at +0.46. This coefficient would indicate that
 A) as teacher interest increases, engaged time tends to increase.
 B) interest in teaching leads to a large increase in engaged time.
 C) there is virtually no relationship between the two variables.
 D) as teacher interest decreases, engaged time increases.
- 29) The study of the processes of teaching and learning is the focus of the discipline of _____.
- 30) When studies are based only on observations, the results should be expressed as
 A) cause-and-effect relationships. B) theories. C) principles. D) descriptions.
- 31) What type of subject samples should researchers use for studies of cause-and-effect relationships?
 A) Controlled samples B) Random samples C) Skilled samples D) Related samples
- 32) Differentiate between descriptive and experimental research orientations with regard to purpose, methods, and the interpretation of results.

- 33) Research on acceleration for bright children suggests that acceleration is generally
A) harmful for children at all age/grade levels.
B) beneficial for younger children but detrimental for older children.
C) detrimental for younger children but beneficial for older children.
D) beneficial for these children at all age/grade levels.
- 34) A correlational study is a specific type of descriptive research. A) T B) F
- 35) Which one of the following instances is most like a random sample for a class of thirty students?
A) The first twenty volunteers are selected from the physics class and alternately placed into experimental and control groups.
B) The first ten students who enter the classroom are placed into the experimental group and the next ten into the control group.
C) A coin is tossed in order to select students alternately one by one into the experimental and control groups.
D) The twenty students with the highest GPAs are selected and alternately placed into experimental and control groups.
- 36) The type of research that attempts to record what happens in classrooms without attempting to manipulate any variables is called _____ research.
- 37) Random assignments would be most critical in what type of research?
A) Experimental B) Descriptive C) Case study D) Correlational
- 38) Which one of the following correlation coefficients indicates the strongest relationship?
A) +0.56 B) -0.03 C) +0.70 D) -0.78
- 39) The study of educational psychology is focused on
A) learning, teaching, and research. B) primarily the general content about learning.
C) applications of learning theory. D) primarily the processes of learning.
- 40) The concerns of educational psychology are distinctive in that they
A) are limited to the classroom. B) relate to improving learning and instruction.
C) have no place in the laboratory. D) do not overlap those of other fields of study.
- 41) Correlations provide a basis for making cause-effect interpretations. A) T B) F
- 42) In what specific type of research would a researcher be likely to serve as a participant-observer?
A) Correlational B) Experimental C) Ethnographic D) Descriptive
- 43) A researcher finds that students who were given computers to use at home demonstrated greater independent learning skills than a comparable group that was not selected to receive home computers. What type of research study was probably designed for this conclusion to be valid?
A) Descriptive B) Observation C) Correlational D) Experimental
- 44) Organizing a teaching portfolio is required for a beginning teacher who is preparing for her/his first professional teaching assignment. A) T B) F
- 45) Negative correlations are typically weaker than positive correlations. A) T B) F
- 46) A correlation coefficient of 0.90 indicates that
A) the two events are related 10 percent of the time. B) one event is strongly related to another event.
C) the two events are related 90 percent of the time. D) one event has been caused by another event.
- 47) Many educators believe that the mark of an expert teacher is the ability to be _____.

- 48) Experienced teachers tend to judge their success by
 A) their ability to establish discipline. B) feedback from parents of students.
 C) evaluations from their principals and peers. D) the success demonstrated by their students.
- 49) Explain how principles and theories are derived. Discuss how knowledge of a theory (e.g., classroom management) can be helpful to a classroom teacher.
- 50) What type of correlation coefficient is likely to be obtained between reading ability and running ability of high-school students?
 A) Weak negative B) Close to zero C) Strong positive D) Either +1.00 or -1.00
- 51) Dr. Patterson concludes from her research that using a systematic study strategy caused good grades for students assigned to a particular group. For this conclusion to be valid, the type of research that was performed must have been what type of study?
 A) Correlational B) Descriptive C) Observational D) Experimental
- 52) Unlike physics or chess, expertise in teaching is mainly a function of style rather than knowledge.
 A) T B) F
- 53) What size or direction of correlation coefficient is likely to be obtained between children's ages (from five to 13 years) and the distance that they can long jump?
 A) Negative B) Either +1.00 or -1.00 C) Positive D) Close to zero
- 54) A key element in a research experiment is random assignment of participants to groups. A) T B) F
- 55) Wong's research indicated that when individuals read a research result, they tended to
 A) find the results more obvious than originally thought.
 B) become resistant toward using the strategy involved.
 C) put the results into practice immediately.
 D) seek more information on the subject.
- 56) When a result from a research project involving an experimental design is reported in the literature as significant, this result
 A) is unrelated to theory development. B) contradicts the prevailing theoretical views.
 C) will indicate its practical importance. D) is unlikely to have occurred by chance.
- 57) A positive correlation between two factors indicates that the factors
 A) tend to increase or decrease together. B) decrease proportionately.
 C) are not necessarily related. D) are strongly related.
- 58) A researcher participates in a class over a two-month period and analyzes the strategies the teacher employs to maintain discipline. This research is an example of what specific type of research study?
 A) Ethnography B) Longitudinal C) Cross-sectional D) Experimental

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Answer Key

- 1) A
- 2) principle
- 3) correlational
- 4) B
- 5) Descriptive research cannot show cause-and-effect relationships; it does not involve a change or treatment, and it uses observation to characterize things as they exist. Relationships between variables are described by correlations. Experimental research involves randomization and use of a dependent variable (outcome) and independent variable (treatment). Experimental research may indicate cause-and-effect relationships.
- 6) C
- 7) New teachers may worry about their teaching skills, being liked by peers and students, making a good impression, and basically surviving. Specific concerns are maintaining discipline, motivating students, accommodating individual differences, evaluating students, and dealing with parents.
- 8) C
- 9) participant observer
- 10) theories
- 11) FALSE
- 12) TRUE
- 13) TRUE
- 14) Educational psychology is concerned primarily with (a) understanding the processes of teaching and learning and (b) developing ways of improving these processes. Educational psychologists are interested in both learning and teaching. They recognize the distinction between learning as it is researched in the laboratory and teaching as it takes place in actual classroom settings. For this reason, they advocate testing the validity of learning theories outside the laboratory.
- 15) significant
- 16) FALSE
- 17) random
- 18) FALSE
- 19) experimental
- 20) reality shock
- 21) B
- 22) D
- 23) B
- 24) D
- 25) C
- 26) C
- 27) TRUE
- 28) A
- 29) educational psychology
- 30) D
- 31) B
- 32) Principles, such as those pertaining to testing or classroom management, help in solving specific problems. Theories provide broad frameworks that help teachers in assessing new problems and deriving solutions. Knowledge of classroom management theory, for example, would provide a teacher with directions or basic guidelines for how to react to different problems that occur. [The theory would not, however, dictate specific solutions, because every situation is unique.]
- 33) D
- 34) TRUE
- 35) C
- 36) descriptive
- 37) A
- 38) D

- 39) A
- 40) B
- 41) FALSE
- 42) C
- 43) D
- 44) FALSE
- 45) FALSE
- 46) B
- 47) reflective
- 48) D
- 49) Shulman has identified seven areas of professional knowledge that experts have: academic subjects, general teaching strategies, curriculum materials and programs, subject-specific knowledge for teaching, characteristics and cultural backgrounds of learners, settings for learners, and goals and purposes of teaching. Novices tend to be limited in many of these seven areas, particularly those involving how to relate learner characteristics to teaching strategies. [The remainder of the answer should discuss an example of experts vs. novices that reflects the possible differences between these groups.]
- 50) B
- 51) D
- 52) FALSE
- 53) C
- 54) TRUE
- 55) A
- 56) D
- 57) A
- 58) A