

MAPC solution series

Research Methods in Psychology

2015

2016

2017

2018

June & December

MAPC Solution Series

Research Methods in Psychology

(June 15 - Dec 18)



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MAPC Solution Series: Research Methods in Psychology

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Dec 18

Section – A (450 Words)

Q. No. 1. What is the purpose of sampling? Discuss the various sampling methods. 2+8 Marks

Que asked in *Dec 15*, Please see Page No. *22*

Q. No. 2. Differentiate between experimental research and field experiment. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of field experiments 6+4 Marks

Answer:

Que asked in *Dec 15*, Please see Page No. *24*

Strengths of Field Experiments

- It is an appropriate method for studying complex social influences, processes, and changes in life like setting
- Behavior in a field experiment is more likely to reflect real life because of its natural setting, i.e. higher external validity than a lab experiment
- There is less likelihood of demand characteristics affecting the results, i.e. participants are less likely to adjust their natural behaviour according to their interpretation of the study's purpose, as they might not know they are in a study

Weaknesses of Field Experiments

- Ethical issues arise as participants are not aware they are being studied meaning issue of privacy is broken and they have to be debriefed
- Less control of extraneous and confounding variables which reduced internal validity
- More time consuming and more expensive

- Extraneous variables could confound results due to the reduced control experimenters have over them in non-artificial environments, which makes it difficult to find truly causal effects between independent and dependent variables
- Precise replication of the natural environment of field experiments is understandably difficult, so they have poor reliability, unlike laboratory experiments where the exact conditions can be recreated
- Field experiments are more susceptible to sample bias, as participants are often not randomly allocated to experimental conditions (i.e. participants' groups are already pre-set rather than randomly assigned)
- Difficult to test very complex hypotheses **(221 Words)**

Q. No. 3. What is quasi – experimental design? Explain its advantages and disadvantages. **3+7 Marks**

Que asked in *Dec 16*, Please see Page No. *55*

Advantages and Disadvantages of Quasi Experimental Design

Que asked in *Dec 15*, Please see Page No. *32*

Q. No. 4. Discuss the various steps and approaches to discourse analysis

10 Marks

Steps to Discourse Analysis

Que asked in *June 16*, Please see Page No. *38*

Approaches to Discourse Analysis

Que asked in *Dec 15*, Please see Page No. *28*

Section – B (250 Words)

Q. No. 5. Define validity. Discuss the various threats to internal validity

2+4 Marks

Que asked in Dec 16, Please see Page No. 56

Various Threats to Internal Validity

Que asked in Dec 15, Please see Page No. 29

Q. No. 6. What are the objectives of research design? Explain various types of research design

3+3 Marks

Answer: The research design has two basic objectives:

- **To provide answers to research questions** –The researcher is not inclined to answer the research questions in a layman’s term but answer in terms of validity, objectivity, accuracy etc. For example, the factorial design is a design which deals with the interaction effect in an economical way. Different research problems require different research designs.
Research problems can be and are stated in the form of hypotheses and the research designs are carefully worked out to yield dependent and valid answers to the research questions epitomised by the hypotheses.
- **To control variance under study** – The score deviation is called variance and these variances must be controlled. The investigators follow certain principles for constructing an efficient research design.
 - To maximise the variance of variable
 - To control extraneous variance
 - To minimise error variance

Types of Research Design

To conduct the field experiments there are experimental research designs available and these are being discussed below.

- **Single Case Experimental Design** - The single case experiment is useful in clinical research especially in the area of behaviour modification. This design provides us the detailed information of human behaviour which is not possible in the group designs. The design however is not very suitable for generalising the findings to the larger population.
- **Quasi-Experimental Design** - All experimental situations in which the researcher / experimenter does not have full control over the assignment of experimental units randomly to the treatment conditions or the treatment cannot be manipulated, are collectively called quasi experimental designs
- **Experimental Design** - This type of design is generally conducted in the laboratory with complete control over all variables and all subjects. In this type of research design one can assign subjects randomly to the treatment groups and one can manipulate the independent variable and study the pure effects of the manipulation on the dependent variable.

(311 Words)

Q. No. 7. Discuss the potential difficulties in the formulation of a good hypothesis **6 Marks**

Answer: Hypothesis is a supposed statement but it is not a meaningless, unconnected and illogical statement. Formulation of a hypothesis is an art and requires mental, intelligence and guidance and support to formulate it. In scientific knowledge, a hypothesis is arranged by logical relationship of cause and effect when keeping in view the incident the material knowledge and wisdom help to know the causes and through deduction a relation is established to investigate through research.

In the formulation of useful hypothesis, there are three difficulties:

- **Absence of clear theoretical Framework:** Generally, theoretical knowledge is found as unclear and ambiguous which presents difficulty in understanding, therefore, useful hypotheses cannot be derived from these.
- **Lack of ability to utilize theoretical framework:** There is a need of intelligence and observation ability to avail the theoretical knowledge so that through deduction, the formulation of hypothesis be done from theoretical knowledge but because of lack of this ability theoretical knowledge cannot be availed and there is difficulty in meeting useful hypotheses.
- **Lack of Acquaintance with available research techniques:** Scientific research procedure is so complicated and vast that complete knowledge and its correct use is difficult and to formulate useful hypothesis, there is a hesitation and Worry in the minds that how to test them.

(208 Words)

Q. No. 8. Explain various types of factorial design

6 Marks

Que asked in June 17, Please see Page No. 65

Q. No. 9. What are the various steps involved in analyzing qualitative research data.

6 Marks

Que asked in June 15, Please see Page No. 8

Section – C (100 Words)

Q. No. 10. Placebo bias

3 Marks

Answer: The mind can have a powerful influence on the body, and in some cases can even help the body heal. The mind can even sometimes trick you into

believing that a fake treatment has real therapeutic results, a phenomenon that is known as the placebo effect. Placebo biases operate when people strongly want to believe a treatment is successful.

But the placebo is much more than just positive thinking. When this response to a fake treatment occurs, many patients have no idea that they are responding to what is essentially a "sugar pill." **(93 Words)**

Q. No. 11. Post HOC fallacy

3 Marks

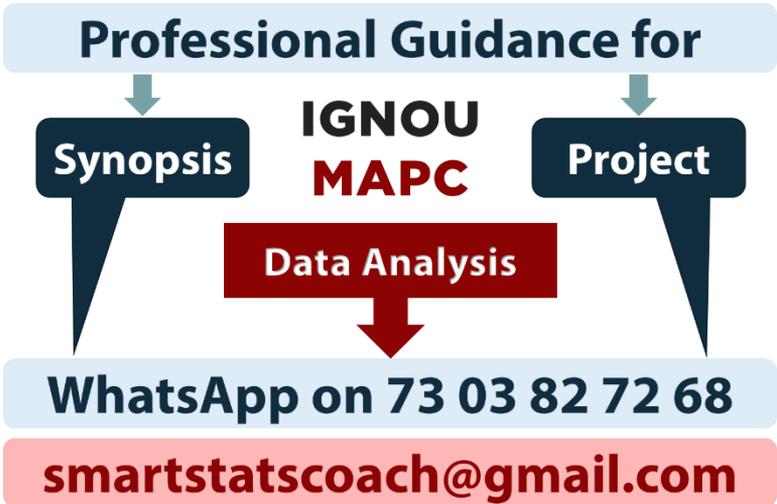
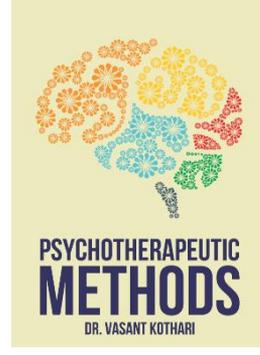
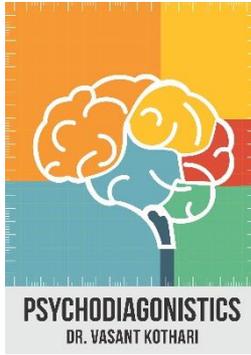
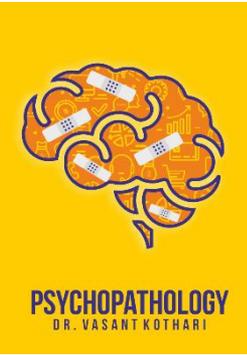
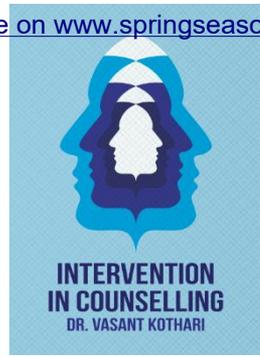
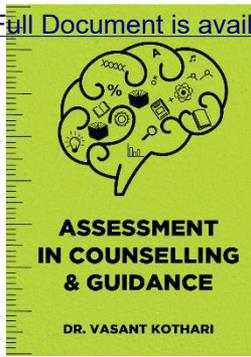
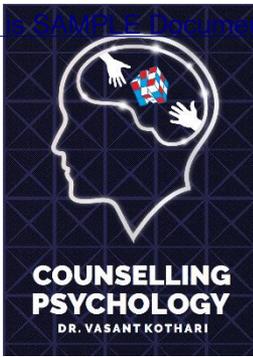
Answer: The fallacy of post hoc actually comes from the longer Latin phrase, "post hoc ergo propter hoc," which translates to "after this, therefore because of this." This translation is important because it touches on how humans, think. People tend to think in sequences, believing that for every event there is a cause and effect relationship. However, if we're not careful, we may mistakenly attribute the causes of events to things that really weren't factors.

The fallacy implies that correlation between any two scenarios or events does not imply the causation of one due to the other. In other words, if two events occur consecutively, it does not imply that the latter event occurred due to the occurrence of the former event. In this way, two seemingly unrelated events are inaccurately considered to represent a cause and effect scenario. **(138 Words)**

Q. No. 12. Steps in Ethnographic research

3 Marks

Que asked in **Dec 17**, Please see Page No. **74**



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