

PSY 441

Chapter 1

Question #4

The meaning of post hoc is “after the event.” Post hoc is when a phenomenon is explained or used to compare to something that has already happened. Post hoc makes assumptions that certain aspects of a situation or happening caused the phenomenon. The problem with this is that there is no evidence that the factors had anything to do with the phenomenon. For example, “my mom assumes that every time she has a cold, she takes vitamin C, eats lots of garlic, and feels better in a few days.” Another is, “I picked up a penny heads up and had good luck the whole day.”

In comparison, priori is when scientists conduct studies that make predictions before data is collected. It is independent of any previous studies. Priori in Latin means “what is before.” In English, it means to describe ideas, arguments, and assumptions based on theory. The studies use explanations to make a prediction or hypotheses. The knowledge is dependent on experience or observational evidence. An example is “all dogs have four legs.” Another is, “all moms have a child.”

Question #7

The biggest strength of a case study is its intensive in-depth study of the individual. The study detailed the patient's life over a long period. This is beneficial for the individual's diagnosis and treatment. Case studies can also be used in both clinical and medical settings. Additional strengths in a case studies procedure are their strong, diverse, complex perspectives and personal individuality. This is important because it provides the therapist with inconsistencies and

consistencies in the person's behaviors. This gives the therapist greater insight into how the client's characteristic experiences are organized. The last strength of the case study method is its accidental findings. These unexpected findings can lead to new hypotheses and research for the improved acceptable theory. The other side of case studies is that they also have their weaknesses. The difficulty with a case study is that it addresses specific information and detailed patient characteristics. This makes it challenging for data to apply to other people in general. Also, the case study is weak because it lacks systematic control, which makes causal inferences impossible.

Question #11

Replication of studies is crucial and essential. The results of the research are not considered facts in any absolute. The outcomes are looked at as probability statements. When replication is applied, the researcher can evaluate the value of any hypothesis. A complete, efficient replication increases assurance in the findings. Without replication, there are questions about empirical validity. There may be an assumption that the procedures in the hypothesis were not reliable or valid. Replication is also important because it helps to verify that the behavior at the time was not due to chance. The findings collected at that time might not be true at another time. This may be due to different researchers or different experimental subjects. Replication must repeat the research in all its important detail.