

Maria Revilla

Dr. Stephen Maret

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Chapter 2- Questions

2. All animal research is regulated by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). They ensure that animals are treated humanely, and that pain and distress are minimized. This organization conducts semi-annual inspections of all animal facilities to ensure compliance with the research protocols, and finally, no animal experimentation can take place without the committee's approval. I am glad that there are now safeguards in place to regulate animal experimentation, but I don't think this is enough.

Personally I think that there is something inherently very wrong with using animals for experimentation that wouldn't be ethical in humans. Of course, there have been some wonderful naturalistic observations of animals in their environment such as those conducted by Dr. Goodall. On the other hand, one hears of the cruelest experiments on animals such as primates that were kept in small cages for years, subjected to all kinds of painful experiments, and are later disposed of when they are no longer of use, such as the case of the Ponso, and the group of chimps abandoned on an island off the Ivory Coast in 1983. Another example would be the Kelloggs' study consisting of raising a chimp alongside their son in 1932. The long term consequences of this experiment were tragically sad for both the chimp and his son. However both experiments took place well before the safeguard commission was established in 1985, hence the importance

of a regulatory body in place. I understand that animal experimentation has greatly advanced medicine and science. However I don't think it is morally or ethically right.

5. The main criticism of some of Freud's theories is that they are not falsifiable, which is one of the conditions by which a scientific hypothesis is validated, and is an integral part of the scientific method. A hypothesis must be able to be proven incorrect. Freud proposed many ideas or hypotheses to explain human behavior, such as the three elements of the psyche, the id, the ego, and the superego. Clearly, these concepts were not able to be proven to be incorrect, because no empirical observations could be made to prove they were false or refutable.

The Scientific method is rigorous and all conditions must be consistently met. With abstract, not tangible terms as the ones proposed by Freud, there is no possible physical test to determine that the hypothesis is false. Fully verifying the hypothesis across the board will lead to confirming or refining the theory, otherwise, the hypothesis stays a hypothesis, an educated guess, or a prediction that might not hold true in all cases at all times. I personally found Freud's theories about the subconscious mind, and analysis of dreams to be fascinating and plausible, and they certainly explain a lot of our behaviors. However, I recognize the possibility that they might be in some cases more intuitive than strictly scientific in some cases.

8. The experimenter bias may manifest when researchers are heavily involved in a research experiment and may voluntarily or involuntarily skew the results of the study by consciously or unconsciously projecting their own expectations and ideas as well as their will to confirm their hypothesis, in the interpretation of the results of the study. In order to avoid this possibility that would adulterate the outcome of the study, double-blind studies are administered where both the participants and the researchers are blind to the group assignments and the participants in each group.

12. One advantage of such a large sample study is that it will collect information from a diverse population, and therefore it will produce better generalizability. One disadvantage is that sometimes people don't answer the questions accurately or truthfully.

For example, parents might just have a vague idea of how many hours per week their children watch television, but hours may vary from weekdays to weekends, and parents might not be able to account for the exact number of hours giving just an estimate or an inaccurate answer. In addition, parents might just realize that their children are being allowed to watch a huge amount of hours of television per week, and parents might feel a bit ashamed of letting their children sit in front of the television for such a long time, so they might decide to give the interviewer a shorter number of hours to sound more reasonable and more sensible parents.

18. Case studies focus on one person or a very small group. As a result, a case study will collect extensive, in-depth, specific information and insight into their patients and their conditions. The subjects may have a particular feature, such as a rare physical or psychological personality disorder that make them quite unique and interesting cases for study. However, the disadvantage of such a small and concentrated study is that these very specific findings cannot be applied to a larger population group, unlike in the case of the survey.