**Instructor’s Solution Manual to Chapter Exercises in**



***The Essentials of Political Analysis, Sixth Edition***

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**Version 1.2. Last updated May 8, 2019**

**Introduction**

There are no end-of-chapter exercises in the Introduction.

**Chapter 1: The Definition and Measurement of Concepts**

**1.**

A. Some possibilities for completing inventory of contrasting characteristics:

* frequently / never attends religious services;
* believes / does not believe in supreme deity;
* says that religion is most important / least important aspect of their lives;
* frequently / never contributes time or money to a religious organization;
* frequently / never attends group discussions of religious texts;
* displays / does not display religious symbols or imagery;
* feels proud / does not feel proud of a faith tradition;
* feels / does not feel joy [sorrow] when something good [bad] happens to a fellow believer.

B. Students must justify choices in A. This may be easier to do for some attributes. For example, when someone says that religion is the most (or least) important aspect of his or her life, it is plausible to assume that the response is tapping the concept of religiosity and is not tapping any other concept. However, religious attendance may tap a generalized desire for a sense of belonging to a group (frequent attendance) or the absence of that desire (no attendance). In any event, the purpose of this part of the exercise is to encourage students to think empirically and justify their choices.

C. Example (using attendance): The concept of religiosity is defined as the extent to which individuals exhibit the characteristic of frequently attending religious services.

**2.**

A. No, the conclusion is not supported. The ecological fallacy could be at work here. The ecological fallacy occurs when the researcher uses findings obtained from aggregate-level units of analysis (in this case, states) to make cross-level inferences about individuals (low-income and high-income individuals).

B. Low-income individuals, who are less likely to vote than are high-income individuals, are more likely to reside in states with higher percentages of high-income individuals. So, when one compares states having high percentages of low-income residents with states having low percentages of low-income residents, one is also comparing states having higher percentages of voters with states have lower percentages of voters.

**3.**

A. (i) It is likely that a sizeable number of gun owners would be less willing to tell female interviews that they own guns compared to male interviewers. (ii) The social desirability effect is a type of response bias that occurs when human subjects alter their responses to survey questions to appear more likeable to the researcher. Because males tend to favor gun ownership more than females, gun owners may be more willing to tell a male interviewer they own a gun compared to a female because some subjects tell interviewers what they want to hear in order to be liked in a social setting.

B. (i) Systematic measurement error. (ii) The social desirability effect would be a consistent and chronic distortion in the measurement of gun ownership. The problem would cause researchers to consistently underestimate the true proportion of gun ownership. It is a not a random measurement error because it doesn’t cause nongun owners to say they own guns; there’s a pattern to the measurement error.

**4.**

A. Yolanda’s measure has high validity and high reliability. Is it valid because all of the measurements are very close to the true value of 50. It is reliable because the differences among the four measurements are very small.

B. Xavier’s measure has high validity and low reliability. Is it valid because the measurements are close to the true value of 50: one is on the true value; two are two units below; one is four units above. Compared with Yolanda’s measurements, Xavier’s are less reliable, because the differences among the four measurements are larger, ranging from 48 to 54.

C. Zelda’s measure has low validity and high reliability. It has low validity because it underestimates true knowledge by 4–6 points. It is reliable because the measurements are very consistent, within 2 points of each other.

D. Warren’s measure has low validity and low reliability. It has low validity because none of the measurements is at all close to the true value. It is unreliable because the measures vary wildly in a 30-point range, from 40 to 70.

**5.**

Following are several reasons why “number of yard signs” is not a valid measure of “preelection support”: Because yard signs require public commitment by the sign displayers, yard signs measure intensity of support among a handful of people, not breadth of support in the electorate. Because some people display yard signs at the request of the candidate (not on the initiative of the displayer), yard signs measure candidate initiative and/or campaign strategy, not voter sentiment. If the number of yard signs is counted, a large family home will be counted as having the same electoral support as a single person’s home. Some districts, such as dense urban districts and large rural districts, don’t have a lot of homes with yards to display signs. Using the yard signs measurement strategy, individuals who don’t own homes will not be counted at all.

**6.**

1. Reliable but not valid.
2. Mutt Jeffley’s strategy for weighing his dog is reliable because it will yield consistent results. Each time his steps on the scale holding his dog, the scale will report the same weight (or very close to it). The measurements are not valid, however, because Mutt is stepping on the scale with his dog, thereby adding his weight to the dog’s weight every time he attempts to measure his dog’s weight.
3. Mutt could weigh himself without the dog and subtract his weight from the combined weight he obtains when he steps on the scale holding his dog.

**7.**

A. (i) This question has high face validity.

 (ii) The question is intended to measure individual preferences on the trade-off between creating jobs and protecting the environment. It does so by forcing respondents to choose between one value and the other.[[1]](#footnote-1)

B. The jobs versus environment question is meant to measure individuals’ opinions on the relative importance of creating jobs and protecting the environment when these two values come into conflict. If the measure has construct validity, it will be related to other opinions one would expect it to be related to. Comparing responses to the jobs versus environment question to individual opinions about (iii) business regulation would provide the best test of construct validity because one would expect those who favor creating jobs over protecting the environment to have less favorable opinions about business regulation compared to those who favor protecting the environment. The relationship between the jobs versus environment question and opinions about abortion and climate change are more tenuous.

**8.**

A. (i) This data set would be both cross-sectional and longitudinal. (ii) It’s a cross-section of Internet use/availability across 100 countries. It also allows researchers to compare the variable over time (from 1990 to the present) within these countries.

B. (i) This dataset is cross-sectional. (ii) The observed values of GDP and civil unrest across 100 countries are limited to the most current year.

**9.**

A. This question calls for students to search for and identify a recent article on polarization in one of the following publications: *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, or *American Political Science Review*. There are many possibilities. The student should identify author(s), title, journal, and date.

B. The student should describe how the concept of polarization is operationalized in the article identified in Part A. The student should describe how the article’s authors define, and possibly measure, polarization. Again, there are many possibilities, but students should focus on the article’s operational definition of polarization (as opposed to its causes/consequences or the student’s subjective opinions of the article and contemporary politics).

1. Interestingly, this traditional ANES survey question was revised starting in 2012. Respondents are asked to choose between “Regulate business to protect the environment and create jobs” and “No regulation because it will not work and will costs.” This revised question has low face validity. A respondent who wants to “create jobs” is not forced to choose between creating jobs and protecting the environment. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)