

Research Methods – Topics and Questions

1. What are three goals of sexology according to your textbook?

NOTE: one word answers are enough, in other words: understanding (sexual behavior), predicting (sexual behavior), and controlling (sexual behavior)

2. Of the three goals of sexology, which one raises the most ethical questions and concerns?

3. Know 4 methods of obtaining information in sexology:

(The 4 methods are: case study, survey, direct observation, experimental method)

for each of the 4 methods know:

description of the method

advantages of the method

disadvantages of the method

[Your textbook has an excellent table summarizing the 4 research methods and you are advised to study this table]

4. Know the following terms (both the words and their meanings)

representative samples

random samples

nonresponse

self-selection bias

demographic bias

5. **Not in textbook** - According to Victorian thinking what was considered a proper time interval to wait between two indulgences in intercourse?

6. **Not in textbook** - According to Victorian thinking what was the main reason individuals ended up in insane asylums? (be specific: “sex” is not the answer)

7. **Not in textbook** - What kind of cancer might be less likely to occur in men with a history of frequent masturbation according to some recent studies?

8. What was the name of the most famous sex survey researcher?

What year did Alfred Kinsey publish “Sexual Behavior in the Human Male”?

What method did Alfred Kinsey employ? (of the 4 methods above)

9. **Not in textbook** - How did Alfred Kinsey’s findings of actual human behavior differ from cultural ideas / expectations prevalent at that time...

A)...about the frequency of marital intercourse? (in other words did Kinsey find marital intercourse to occur: more frequently than expected? less frequently than expected?)

B)...about the consequences of masturbation? (in other words did the data Kinsey collected suggest horrible mental & physical consequences among masturbators? or did the data suggest (by implication) no horrible consequences – given the prevalence of masturbation in the general population?)

10. What year were the findings of the National Health & Social Life Survey (NHSLs) published?

What three ethnic groups were well represented in this study?

11. What were the names of the most famous pioneers of direct observation sex research?

What year did William Masters & Virginia Johnson publish “Human Sexual Response”?

What method did Masters & Johnson employ?

12. **Not in textbook** - What happens to the size of the empty vaginal barrel when stimulated?

What happens to the size of the vaginal barrel when an object is inserted and then it is stimulated?

[Note: you don’t have to know any specific numbers or measurements here

– just the general idea of whether size gets bigger, smaller, or stays the same]

13. **Not in textbook** – Which of the following tends to **gain** most in size when stimulated:

a small flaccid penis or a large flaccid penis?

14. Given a description of a research study, be able to identify the following:

What is the independent variable in that study?

What is the dependent variable in that study?

15. What changes or events do the following instruments measure?

penile strain gauge

vaginal photoplethysmograph

vaginal and rectal myograph