

Quiz: About longitudinal studies

Now you've completed 'Introduction to longitudinal studies', test your knowledge by taking the module quiz. Get Started!

Question 1 of 7

True or false? A longitudinal study contacts a fresh sample of people each time a sweep is carried out.

- A. True
- B. False

Question 2 of 7

Which of the following is a strength of longitudinal studies?

- A. They establish the order in which events occur
- B. Attrition
- C. Cheaper than a cross-sectional study

Question 3 of 7

Which of the following are characteristics of the household panel studies described in this module? (Tick all that apply)

- A. The sample changes over time as people leave households and join new ones.
- B. They are representative of a particular generation of people, not the population as a whole.
- C. They collect information from whole households at each wave.
- D. They don't collect data through survey interviews; instead they rely on information from administrative records.

Question 4 of 7

Common data collection methods in longitudinal studies include which of the following? (Tick all that apply)

- A. Cognitive assessments
- B. Biological samples, for example, blood, hair or saliva
- C. Linking to personal banking records
- D. Participant observation

Question 5 of 7

What can longitudinal studies show us? (Tick all that apply)

- A. How key life transitions change the course of a person's life
- B. How early circumstances affect later life
- C. How different areas of our lives are linked and how those relationships change over time
- D. How different aspects of life vary for different people throughout their lives
- E. How patterns of behaviour change as people get older

Question 6 of 7

Which of the following is an example of an historical study? (Tick all that apply)

- A. MRC National Survey of Health and Development (1946 British birth cohort)
- B. National Child Development Study (1958 British birth cohort)
- C. Hertfordshire Cohort Study
- D. 1970 British Cohort Study

Question 7 of 7

Which of the following research questions could not be answered using longitudinal data? (Tick all that apply)

- A. What is the effect of education and training on earnings in later life?
- B. Are certain groups of children more likely to be in the bottom streams at school?
- C. Is cognitive behavioural therapy an effective treatment for depression?
- D. Are people's career paths influenced by their parents' employment?
- E. All of the above

Answers

1. False - Unlike cross-sectional studies, longitudinal studies revisit the same group of people repeatedly over time. Each sweep collects new information about participants' lives, adding rich new data to what is already known about them.
2. A - Longitudinal data collection allows researchers to build up a reliably ordered account of the key events and experiences in study participants' lives.
3. A & C - Household panel studies follow whole households of people over time. New participants join the study as households break up and new ones form.
4. A & B - Other common methods include surveys, clinical measurements, qualitative data and linking to administrative records held by government.
5. All - The breadth of data collected over time allows researchers to explore all of these areas.
6. C - The Hertfordshire Cohort Study began by linking information on adults to historical information taken from their birth records.
7. C - Longitudinal studies are observational, meaning they do not attempt to influence participants lives in any way. Medical treatments are often tested through randomised control trials, where one group is administered the treatment and the other not.