

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Are Your Sources Bulletproof? Advanced Senior Research Quiz

Challenge your ability to synthesize nuances in historiography and navigate the ethical complexities of attribution in scholarly discourse.

1. When synthesizing the work of Post-Keynesian economists with modern fiscal policy, which citation method best avoids 'patchwriting' while maintaining academic integrity?

Answer: C) Substantially paraphrasing the core argument and providing an in-text citation for the original concept.

Patchwriting—mimicking a source's structure with minor word changes—is a form of plagiarism. Advanced research requires high-level synthesis through original phrasing and proper attribution of unique theories.

2. In a legal or historical analysis, an amicus curiae brief functions as a secondary source rather than a primary source regardless of its origin.

Answer: B) False

An amicus curiae brief is a primary source in legal and historical research as it represents the original legal argument and socio-political stance of a group during a specific court case.

3. While evaluating a source regarding the environmental impact of lithium mining, a senior researcher detects 'sponsored content' from a mining conglomerate. This constitutes a failure of _____.

Answer: C) Objective neutrality

Objective neutrality is compromised when a source's funding or sponsorship originates from an entity with a direct financial stake in the outcome of the research.

4. You are critiquing a 19th-century translation of 'The Epic of Gilgamesh.' Which approach demonstrates the highest level of evaluative research skill?

Answer: B) Analyzing how the translator's Victorian cultural biases may have altered the poem's thematic nuances.

At the 12th-grade level, evaluation involves investigating how the context of the researcher (or translator) influences the presentation of information, a key component of historiography.

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5. A meta-analysis of clinical trials is considered a higher level of evidence in the hierarchy of research than a single randomized controlled trial.

Answer: A) True

A meta-analysis synthesizes multiple studies to identify broader trends and achieve greater statistical power, placing it at the top of the evidence hierarchy.

6. When citing a work by three or more authors in APA format, the researcher must use the abbreviation _____ after the first author's name in every in-text citation.

Answer: A) et al.

APA 7th edition requires 'et al.' (latin for 'and others') for all in-text citations of works with three or more authors, starting with the first citation.

7. You are researching the architectural legacy of Zaha Hadid. Which of these sources provides the most 'scholarly' value for a formal thesis?

Answer: B) A retrospective article in a peer-reviewed journal of architectural theory.

While interviews and websites are primary sources, peer-reviewed journals undergo rigorous blind review by experts, providing the highest level of scholarly validation.

8. Including a citation for 'common knowledge,' such as the date the Declaration of Independence was signed, is an ethical requirement in AP-level research papers.

Answer: B) False

Common knowledge—facts that can be found in numerous general sources and are known by the average reader—does not require a citation, though boundaries can be subjective.

9. To verify the findings of a controversial study on neural plasticity, a student practices _____ by searching for what other reputable sources say about the original author's credentials.

Answer: C) Lateral reading

Lateral reading is the process of leaving a target website to investigate the site's credibility through outside, independent sources.

10. In a research paper analyzing 'The Waste Land' by T.S. Eliot, how should you treat the author's own footnotes provided within the original poem?

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Answer: C) Treat them as part of the primary text, but distinguish Eliot's notes from your own research.

Eliot's footnotes are an integral part of the primary source. When analyzing them, they must be recognized as his authorial choices while maintaining clear bibliographic distinction from your own citations.