

**Key answer for the Second semester examination
in Methodology of Political science -2-**

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1. Choose the correct answer: (05 Pts).

- Testing hypothesis through the experimental method is conducted by:

d. All of the above. (a. Manipulating the independent variable/ b. Measuring the results./ c. Isolating the phenomenon) (01 pts)

- According to the classification of research methods based on the temporal dimension, which of the following methods are typically included?

b. Experimental Method. (01 pts)

- External criticism of historical sources involve:

d. All of the above (a. Contextual Analysis./ b. Verification of authorship./ c. Physical Provenance). (01 pts)

- According to G. Almond's 1960 framework, which of the following are considered input functions of the political system?

d. All of the above (a. Political socialisation and recruitment/b. Interest articulation/ c. Interest aggregation) (01 pts)

- According to Almond and Coleman's classification based on the criterion of the level of organization within the group, which of the following are types of interest groups?

e. None of the above. (01 pts)

2. Answer with True or False, then explain your answer: (05 Pts).

- Quantitative research focuses on: **opinions, experiences, and meanings.** **False**(0.5 pts)

Justification: Qualitative research focuses on: **opinions, experiences, and meanings.** (0.5 pts)

- The tools of scientific research are means of collecting data, and they include **Interviews and questionnaires.** **False**(0.5 pts)

Justification: The tools of scientific research are means of collecting data, and they include **Interviews and questionnaires, Observation and theoretical sources.** (0.5 pts)

- A historian's book about the Algerian War of Independence is a **primary source for collecting historical data.** **False**(0.5 pts)

Justification: A historian's book about the Algerian War of Independence is a **Secondary source for collecting historical data**(0.5 pts)

- **Class theory (Marxist theory)** accepts the division of society into two main groups as natural and inevitable. **False**(0.5 pts)

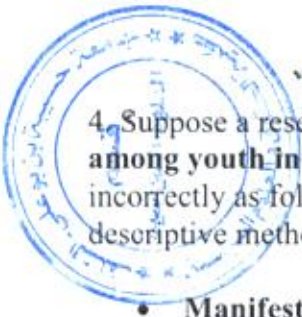
Justification: **Elite theory** accepts the division of society into two main groups as natural and inevitable. (0.5 pts)

- Decision-taking is the last step of the decision-making process. **False**(0.5 pts)

Justification: **Evaluation** is the last step of the decision-making process. (0.5 pts)

3. Define briefly the following concepts (2.5 Pts).

Symbolic Capacity = القدرة الرمزية (0.5 pts)/ Core and Periphery = المركز والمحيط (0.5 pts)/
economic rationality = العقلانية الاقتصادية (0.5 pts)/ Representative sample = العينة التمثيلية (0.5
pts) / Correlational Studies = الدراسات الترابطية (0.5 pts).



4. Suppose a researcher in political science wants to study the phenomenon: "**Political apathy among youth in the post-COVID-19 pandemic period**", but formulates its problematic incorrectly as follows: "**What are the causes of social apathy?**", and relies solely on the descriptive method using the questionnaire as the only data collection tool.

- **Manifestations of inadequacy in the proposed question:**

First – In defining the phenomenon: (0.5 pts)

- The concept of "political apathy" is not clearly defined: (does it refer to electoral abstention, lack of political participation, distrust in institutions, indifference toward public affairs, etc...?).
- The category "youth" is vague because no precise age group is identified.
- The spatial context is absent (for example: university students, Algerian youth, urban youth, etc.).
- It also requires determining whether this apathy will be studied as a dependent variable or an independent variable.

Second – The problematic: (0.5 pts)

- The problematic included a question about "social apathy," which is a completely different variable from the one specified in the phenomenon.
- Investigating "causes" means that electoral apathy represents the dependent variable. However, the causes are numerous, which makes the problematic broad and undefined.
- The problematic should be refined by studying only one cause, for example, social media as an independent variable.

Third – Methodological tools: (0.5 pts)

- The questionnaire alone is insufficient; it provides descriptive and superficial data that does not reach the level of explanation.
- It needs to be supported by other tools such as observation, interviews, theoretical references, and previous studies.
- **Defining the phenomenon and the problematic**

First – The phenomenon: The impact of social media on electoral apathy among Algerian youth after the COVID-19 pandemic. (0.75 pts)

Second – The problematic: To what extent does social media influence electoral apathy among Algerian youth after the COVID-19 pandemic? (0.75 pts)

- **Suitable methods (within methodological integration)**

First: The descriptive method – to collect information about social media as well as numbers and statistics on electoral participation. (0.5 pts)

Second: The survey method – to measure the spread of political apathy and identify the demographic factors associated with it (age, gender, educational level, intensity of social media use). (0.5 pts)





Third: Content analysis method – to analyze the discourses of politicians, media, and social media platforms in order to understand how a public discourse that reinforces or reduces apathy is produced. (0.5 pts)

• **Two appropriate methodological approaches:**

First: David Easton's systemic approach: This approach studies how political inputs (demands, support, trust, dissatisfaction) and outputs (government decisions, policies) affect youth attitudes toward the political system. It helps explain how weak trust in political institutions may lead to apathy. (0.75 pts)

Second: Structural-functionalism approach: This approach examines the role of institutions (family, school, media, political parties, civil society) in political socialization. If these institutions fail to perform their political functions effectively, political apathy among youth may increase. (0.75 pts)

• **Two additional data collection tools**

First: Semi-structured interview : (0.75 pts)

- Conduct interviews with selected youth participants.
- Explore their perceptions, feelings, motivations, and reasons for political disengagement.
- Obtain deeper qualitative data that questionnaires may not reveal.

Second: Document / content analysis: (0.75 pts)

- Analyze official reports, election participation statistics, youth policy documents, media discourse, and social media content related to political participation after COVID-19.
- Identify patterns, narratives, and indicators associated with political apathy.