

Can Science Answer This Question?

Psychology is an empirical science; that is, its knowledge is obtained through observation, experimentation, and measurement. Some questions cannot be answered empirically and are, therefore, outside the realm of science.

Decide whether scientific research can answer the questions below and respond “yes” or “no” to each question. Do not try to answer the question itself. Just say whether or not scientific research can, in principle, address the question. Briefly explain why each question is, or is not, a good candidate for scientific inquiry.

For the questions that can be studied scientifically, identify what the independent and dependent variables would be in the experiment.

1. Is abortion on demand bad for society?
2. Do people talk more after they have eaten than they do when they are hungry?
3. Does jogging lead to a positive mental attitude?
4. Are the incomes of doctors related to the grades they make in medical school?
5. Which emotion is stronger, love or anger?
6. Are breast-fed babies more alert than bottle-fed babies?
7. Will people be more moral in the year 2020 than they are now?
8. Are people who commit suicide sorry after they have done it?