Chapter 1 Review Questions

As you know, most definitions of psychology start with “the **science** of ….” You should be able to explain to a skeptical layperson

1. What is science? What is the difference between a testable statement that a scientist might make and an untestable one that a pseudoscientist might make? How does the scientific approach to knowing things differs from other ways of knowing such as authority, intuition, common sense, logic, and informal observation?
2. Is psychology a science? How does psychology differ from pseudoscience?
3. Why is it good that psychology is a science?

Answers to Chapter 1 Review Questions

As you know, most definitions of psychology start with “the **science** of ….” You should be able to explain to a skeptical layperson

1. What is science?

**Science is**

**objective rather than subjective,**

**open-minded about ideas but only accepting of ideas that have been objectively tested**

**skeptical (by testing claims against objective evidence and considering alternative explanations for events) but not cynical**

**public rather than private**

What is the difference between a testable statement that a scientist might make and an untestable one that a pseudoscientist might make.

**Testable statements are**

1. **Predictions rather than after-the-fact explanations**
2. **Specific rather than vague**
3. **Tied to objectively observable events**

How does the scientific approach to knowing things differs from other ways of knowing such as authority, intuition, common sense, logic, and informal observation.

**See Table 1.3 on pages 23-25.**

1. Is psychology a science?

**See Table 1.2, p. 22.**

How does psychology differ from pseudoscience?

**Psychology differs from pseudoscience because it**

**uses operational definitions to get objective, replicable data about constructs**

**makes testable statements,**

**puts those statements to objective tests,**

**publishes both the method and the results of those tests, and**

**changes its views based on the results of those tests.**

1. Why is it good that psychology is a science, especially in terms of producing objective, replicable, new knowledge?

**No other tool is as effective as science at uncovering the truth about objective reality. If we are to help people, we should be giving them treatments and advice that are based on fact. (To see why it is good for you to understand research methods, see Box 1.1 on page 33.)**