

CRITICAL ANALYTICAL SKILLS // TEST NOTES !

TEST 1:

WEEK 1:

- science vs. social science.
- motives of social research
- types of research
- qualitative vs. quantitative.
- inductive vs. deductive reasoning
- epistemology vs. ontology
- positivist vs. interpretivist vs. constructionist
- **Science:** a set of logical, systematic, documented methods for investigating nature and natural processes; systematic study of the structure and behaviour of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment —> a way of learning about the world
- **Social Science:** the use of scientific methods (quantitative or qualitative) to investigate individuals, societies and social processes; the knowledge produced by using these methods is called social science.

Motives of social research:

- policy guidance or program management (e.g. government decisions or planning)
- academic concern (e.g. testing social theory, developing new theory)
- personal interest

Types of social research:

- **Descriptive research:** that defines and describes social phenomena; studies questions: “what is” and “what was”
- **Exploratory research:** research that helps define the problem and suggest hypothesis looks at new theories, new angles —>
- **Explanatory research:** identifies causes and effects of social phenomena looks at causes and effect —. why question
- **Evaluation research:** research that determines the effects of a social program or other type of intervention