

Levels of Measurement

Table 5.3 The Characteristics of the Four Levels of Measurement

| Level of Measurement | Characteristics of Categories | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| | Mutually Exclusive | Possesses a Fixed Order | Equal Spacing between Ranks ^a | True Zero Point ^{a,b} |
| Nominal | y | | | |
| Ordinal | y | y | | |
| Interval | y | y | y | |
| Ratio | y | y | y | y |

y = possesses that characteristic

^aPermits standard mathematical operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

^bPermits statements about proportions and ratios.

Note the level of measurement for the questions below.

1. List your total years of education: _____
2. What is your highest level of education? Less than high school/ Some high school / high school graduate / some college / college graduate
3. Circle your marital status: Married / Never married / Divorced / Separated / Widowed
4. Age: _____
5. Percentage of childhood in poverty: _____
6. What is the total family wealth? _____
7. Has the child had health insurance for the past 12 months? Yes / No
8. What is the child's current health status? Excellent / very good / good / fair / poor
9. How many hours per week does the head of household work? _____
10. How many days before the due date was the child born? _____
11. Was the child born premature? Yes / No
12. How often do you read to your child? Never / sometimes / often