Chapter 8: Accuracy and Efficiency in Social Interference

1. Provide an example of a case in which you would expect regression toward the mean to occur. Provide information on the variables and values obtained at time 1, and the values that you would expect to see at time 2. Provide an explanation for why this happens. (See pages 210-212).
2. Write a brief paragraph in which you take a position for or against relying on computers to arrive at inferences in a clinical setting. Present your argument with examples and facts discussed in the chapter (See pages 215 – 217).
3. Write a paragraph explaining some of the ways that researchers have explored how to teach reasoning, and what have some of the most relevant findings in this area been. (See page 217).
4. Draw the outline of a brain (side view) and indicate the approximate positions of three areas implicated in economic decisions. (page 228).
5. Are rapid judgments sometimes better than slow, deliberate ones? Provide two examples to support your position.
6. Briefly describe the "law of large numbers." In what ways do people understand, or misunderstand, its implications? How does this relate to sample selection? Briefly discuss some of the implications for psychological research.
    a. Small sample sizes can have high variability, and so are not good estimates of population characteristics (compared to larger samples).
    b. People tend to believe that increasing the size of the predictor sample of events increased prediction power.
    c. Without random sampling, the sample population can be biased by selection factors, and the resulting sample population would not be highly representative of the overall population.
    d. For research, it is important to pay attention to potential biases in sample selection, otherwise generalizability of the findings is compromised