Research 1 - Final Exam Answers
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1. **Improving Focus and Specificity in a Proposal**
   To sharpen the focus and specificity of the proposal, the researcher should narrow their topic to a particular aspect of social media's influence. For example, they could focus on how algorithms on platforms like Facebook contribute to political polarization among youth. The key concepts should be precisely defined, and the methodology should include clear descriptions of participants, tools, and procedures. Streamlining the scope of the study will ensure that every section serves the main research goal, making the proposal more coherent and focused.

2. **Making the Methodology Section Accessible**
   The methodology should be presented in an accessible way, balancing technical details with clear explanations. Researchers can avoid overwhelming the reader by minimizing jargon, or by providing simple explanations of complex terms when necessary. Incorporating visuals such as charts or tables will also help to clarify complex methods, making the research design more digestible for a broader audience.

3. **Level of Detail in Timeline/Work Plan**
   The timeline should provide a clear, detailed breakdown of each task involved in the research. This includes major milestones such as literature review, data collection, analysis, and report writing. Each task should have an allocated duration and assigned responsibilities. Using a Gantt chart or a month-by-month schedule can help to visually represent the timeline, providing clarity on the feasibility and structure of the project.

4. **Purposes of the Literature Review and Identifying Gaps**
   The literature review serves to establish the context for the research, demonstrate familiarity with existing studies, and justify the need for the study. Rather than merely summarizing previous work, the researcher should synthesize key findings, methodologies, and conclusions to show where gaps exist in the literature. The researcher should then highlight the gap they intend to fill, whether it's a missing aspect or a discrepancy in previous findings, thus clarifying the contribution of their study.

5. **Budget Justification and Level of Detail**
   The budget should include a detailed breakdown of costs, such as personnel, materials, travel, and tools for analysis. Each item should be clearly justified, specifying the purpose and necessity of the expenditure. For example, if the project includes travel, the destinations and number of trips should be detailed. Providing a rationale for each budget item demonstrates to funders

that the researcher has carefully considered all necessary expenses to achieve the research goals.

6. **Categorizing Users' Prior Experience**
Prior experience is a key factor in moderating how the new interface affects user satisfaction. This variable should be measured (e.g., through a pre-experiment survey) and could be controlled statistically or used to segment participants into sub-groups. By doing so, the researcher can explore how prior experience influences the results, ensuring that conclusions about user satisfaction are accurate and reliable.

7. **Operationalizing "Learning Outcome"**
To operationalize "learning outcome," the researchers must specify measurable indicators. For example, "Learning outcome will be assessed with a 20-item multiple-choice test that evaluates retention of knowledge from the module, administered immediately after the completion of the lesson." This operational definition is specific and measurable, directly linking the outcome to the content and enabling clear assessment of its effectiveness.

8. **Sampling Technique and Limitations**
The university's use of convenience sampling means that participants are selected based on ease of access. While this method may be practical, it introduces the risk of bias, as the sample may not represent the broader student body. For instance, students who study in the library might have different needs than those who do not. To improve the generalizability of the findings, a more randomized sampling approach could be considered, such as stratified sampling.