

Course Code: IDE-BAE 304-1 (S) 2008

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ADULT EDUCATION) YEAR III
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER, JULY 2008

TITLE OF PAPER: RESEARCH METHODS IN ADULT EDUCATION

COURSE CODE: IDE-BAE 304-1

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS FROM SECTION A.
 2. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS IN SECTION B.
 3. ALL QUESTIONS IN SECTION B CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

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SECTION A: COMPULSORY

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1

What should the researcher consider when determining how large a sample should be?

- (a) Sites from which the sample will be selected
- (b) Number of individuals collecting data from the sample subjects
- (c) convenience of the sampling
- (d) amount of time available for the research

[2 marks]

QUESTION 2

What is the major advantage of the survey method?

- (a) The population size is taken into account
- (b) The results can generalised
- (c) Data can always be quantified
- (d) The investigation can always result in further research.

[2 marks]

QUESTION 3

One major weakness of the quasi-experimental design is that:

- (a) It is not clear how much of the change is due to intervention and which are due to other factors.
- (b) The researcher works out and controls the intervention programme.
- (c) The researcher has to observe the group at one point in time.
- (d) The group has to be very large for the research to be meaningful.

[2 marks]

QUESTION 4

One of the limitations of historical research is that:

- (a) Events of the past have much bearing on the future.
- (b) One cannot generalise the findings.
- (c) Information is easy to get from those who are keen to volunteer it.
- (d) The data the researcher finds may have been tempered with.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 5

Which of the following may not be a suitable topic in historical research?

- (a) How was adult literacy introduced 40 years ago?
- (b) Causes of the high drop-out rate in the adult education programme.
- (c) What has been the role government in the development of adult education in the last 10 years?
- (d) How have working conditions of Agricultural Extension Officers changed since 1968 in Swaziland? [2 marks]

QUESTION 6

Systematic sampling may be used instead of simple random sampling if:

- (a) population list is in some random order.
- (b) sample size is small
- (c) population is heterogeneous
- (d) expected differences in the composition of the population are small. [3 marks]

QUESTION 7

Compared to simple random sampling, the main advantage of cluster sampling is the:

- (a) degree of randomness it achieves.
- (b) accuracy of the sampling it achieves
- (c) reliability of research findings to which it leads
- (d) saving in time money and personnel costs [2 marks]

QUESTION 8

In cluster sampling the main unit of sampling is the:

- (a) individual
- (b) population
- (c) naturally occurring group of individuals
- (d) population after having been subgrouped on characteristics not related to the research. [2 marks]

QUESTION 9

If the researcher defines his population in a narrow fashion, the research results will be

- (a) useless
- (b) generalisable to a limited population
- (c) generalisable to a broad population
- (d) of no theoretical value [2 marks]

QUESTION 10

Which of the following is not a pitfall in planning research studies?

- (a) the researcher puts off selection of a problem till the completion of all or most of the courses
- (b) prepares poor hypotheses or untestable hypotheses
- (c) fails to conduct a pilot study
- (d) does not accept the first research idea that comes to mind.

[2 marks]

SECTION B

QUESTION 11

Discuss the FOUR (4) factors to be considered in selecting an appropriate sampling design in social science and education research. [20 marks]

QUESTION 12

- (a) Explain why participatory research is a more appropriate approach to conducting research in adult education. [10 marks]
- (b) Explain the procedure for snowball sampling. [10 marks]

QUESTION 13

Good research findings come from the use of probability samples. Explain the difference between probability and non-probability sampling and why probability samples are preferred. [20 marks]

QUESTION 14

- (a) Using examples explain differences between quota sampling and proportional stratified random sampling. [10 marks]
- (b) What is the difference between an experimental and a quasi-experimental research design? [10 marks]