

Course Code: IDE-BAE 304-1 (M) 2010

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ADULT EDUCATION) YEAR III

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2010

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 TWO (2) QUESTIONS IN SECTION B.
3. ALL QUESTIONS IN SECTION B CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

SECTION A: COMPULSORY

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS. CHOOSE AN OPTION THAT BEST FITS YOUR ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS.

QUESTION 1

Zodwa Dlamini is studying public opinion regarding prayer in public schools. She plans to gather survey data from a number of churches on Sunday mornings. She also wants to include a number of people who are not associated with an organised religion in her sample. Zodwa is using:

- (a) Stratified random sampling
 - (b) cluster sampling
 - (c) convenience sampling
 - (d) purposive sampling
- [2 marks]

QUESTION 2

Three of the following are associated with qualitative research methods. Which one is not?

- (a) The purpose is to describe or explain.
 - (b) No data are gathered as part of this approach.
 - (c) Textual data are gathered from a small number of participants.
 - (d) The study is context bound.
- [2 marks]

QUESTION 3

In _____, a particular group of individuals is studied in depth over a defined period of time.

- (a) case study
 - (b) ethnography
 - (c) phenomenology
 - (d) grounded theory
- [2 marks]

QUESTION 4

Among survey methods; _____ generally generate the highest response rate and _____ generally generate the lowest response rate.

- (a) face to face interviews; telephone interviews
 - (b) telephone interviews; questionnaires
 - (c) face to face interview; questionnaires
 - (d) questionnaire; telephone interviews
- [2 marks]

QUESTION 5

Experimental research differs from descriptive research in that it:

- (a) is less sensitive to sampling bias
 - (b) employs statistical analysis
 - (c) attempts to determine causality
 - (d) is conducted in a laboratory
- [2 marks]

QUESTION 6

In experimental research the variable that reflects the outcome of the treatment is the:

- (a) dependent variable
 - (b) independent variable
 - (c) confounding variable
 - (d) constant variable
- [2 marks]

QUESTION 7

In historical research, bias:

- (a) generally does not exist to a problematic degree
 - (b) is less of a problem than in other forms of research
 - (c) is impossible for the researcher to detect
 - (d) can be a subject of study in and of itself.
- [2 marks]

QUESTION 8

To a historical researcher studying the lives of women pioneers in the late 1880's letters written by Rebecca Adams, a pioneer woman on the Nebraska plains, to her sister in Philadelphia, represent:

- (a) primary data
 - (b) secondary data
- [2 marks]

QUESTION 9

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 10

“How unhappy are you with your current salary?” This question violates which rule of good survey writing?

- (a) It is not quantifiable.
- (b) It makes an unwarranted assumption.
- (c) It fails to keep the respondent’s task simple.
- (d) It uses technical language that may not be known to all. [2 marks]

SECTION B

QUESTION 11

Discuss the factors to be considered in determining sample size. [20 marks]

QUESTION 12

- (a) What is the difference between field and laboratory experiments in research? [10 marks]
- (b) How would you justify participatory research in adult education as adding a useful dimension to qualitative research? [10 marks]

QUESTION 13

What role do unobstructive measures play in observational research? [20 marks]

QUESTION 14

What are the main features of the survey design and what are the limitations of this research design? [20 marks]