

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ADULT EDUCATION) YEAR 3
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2011

TITLE OF PAPER: RESEARCH METHODS IN ADULT EDUCATION

COURSE CODE: IDE-BAE 304-1

TIME ALLOWED: 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.

**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 QUESTION/ STATEMENTS.

QUESTION 1.

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

- (a) The purpose is to describe and 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)

QUESTION 2

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 interviews; questionnaires
- (d) Questionnaire; telephone interviews (2)

QUESTION 3.

Experimental research differs from descriptive in that:

- (a) Is less sensitive to sampling bias
- (b) Employs statistical analysis
- (c) Attempts to determine causality
- (d) Is conducted in a laboratory (2)

QUESTION 4

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)

QUESTION 5

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)

QUESTION 6

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)

QUESTION 7

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 sub grouped on characteristics not related to research. (2)

QUESTION 8

The key element in simple random sampling is that;

- (a) Each element has an equal chance of being selected
- (b) Each element has a known probability of being chosen
- (c) Probability of being chosen not known
- (d) A and b (2)

QUESTION 9

Probability sampling designs include:

- (a) simple random sampling
- (b) stratified random sampling
- (c) cluster sampling
- (d) all the above (2)

QUESTION 10

One of the sampling designs stated below is a non-probability design

- (a) purposive sampling
- (b) systematic random sampling
- (c) stratified random sampling
- (d) cluster sampling (2)

QUESTION 11.

State whether the following statements are true or false.

- (a) The use of systematic questionnaires or interview procedures to ask prescribed questions from respondents and records their answers is a feature of survey research. (2)
- (b) In participatory research the problem to be studied originates in the community or workplace itself. (2)
- (c) Participatory research involves the people in the workplace or community who control the entire research process. (1)

SECTION B:

QUESTION 12.

What are the main features of the survey design and what are the limitations of this research design? (25)

QUESTION 13

- a) What is non-probability sampling? (2)

- b) Discuss what is meant by convenient sampling, purposive sampling, quota sampling and snowball sampling. In each case give examples. (23)

QUESTION 14.

Discuss the factors that influence the choice of sample size. (25)

QUESTION 15

- (a) What is the difference between fields and laboratory experiments in research? (12)
- (b) How would you justify participatory research in adult education as adding a useful dimension to qualitative research? (13)

QUESTION 16.

- (a) Explain the difference between probability and non-probability sampling (5)
- (b) Explain in detail what is meant by simple random sampling, stratified random sampling, cluster sampling and systematic sampling? (20)