

Course Code IDE-BAE304-2 (M) 2012

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ADULT EDUCATION) YEAR 4

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2012

**TITLE OF PAPER : RESEARCH METHODS IN ADULT EDUCATION**

**COURSE CODE : IDE-BAE 304-2**

**TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS**

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

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**SECTION A: COMPULSORY**

**INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.**

**QUESTION 1**

Describe three benefits of conducting a thorough literature review when developing a research proposal. (6 marks)

**QUESTION 2**

Explain why the concept of 'triangulation' is important during data collection. (6 marks)

**QUESTION 3**

Identify the scale of measurement in each of the following:

- (a) the score on the attitude scale
- (b) military rank (for example, corporal, sergeant, captain, and so on)
- (c) blood group of a person
- (d) marital status of a subject (8 marks)

**QUESTION 4**

Explain the difference between a bar chart and a histogram as data analysis techniques. (5 marks)

**TOTAL: 25 MARKS**

## SECTION B:

ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS.

**QUESTION 5**

A student researcher is conducting an interview with Zodwa, who is a nightclub waitress. Here is an excerpt.

- Student: "What shift do you typically work?"
- Zodwa: "Night. I come in around 7.00 p.m. and work until 2.00 a.m."
- Student: "Nightclub waitressing has a bad reputation. How bad is it to work here?"
- Zodwa: "Not so bad. Most of our customers are pretty nice guys. They're regulars and they don't drink too much and get out of control. In fact, if one customer is giving me a hard time another often steps in and helps out".
- Student: "As the evening progresses, the men give you more problems, don't they straighten up?"
- Zodwa: "I ignore it as long as I can. I get the manager to step in if they don't straighten up."

Do you notice any problems with the interviewing techniques of the student? Describe the problems you see in the excerpts and explain what the student should do differently. (25 marks)

**QUESTION 6**

- (a) Using the deviation score method calculate the standard deviation for the following. (Work out the mean to the nearest whole number)

x	f
20	1
21	3
22	5
23	8
24	4
25	3
26	2

(14 marks)

- (b) Find the mode and the median for this distribution. Describe the nature of the curve that would result from this distribution. (6 marks [25 marks])

**QUESTION 7**

Thandi has been a member of a research team studying interpersonal aggression among urban pre-school children for more than a year. In that time, her team has repeatedly employed a consistent set of techniques and procedures to study pre-schoolers as they interact in a number of settings. The procedure revolves around volunteer mothers bringing their children to the university child development laboratory for a “play session” that is the basis of the formal observations. She meets a friend who offers to introduce her to peri-urban though impoverished pre-school to conduct her own study. Thandi decides that she has no time to prepare a formal proposal before embarking on the study. “Besides” she thinks “this study should go just like all the others we’ve done”.

Is Thandi leaving herself open to problems in this situation or is she safe moving ahead with no formal proposal given how familiar she is with the study techniques and procedures?

(25 marks)

**QUESTION 8**

After completing planned analyses, the researcher must interpret the results of statistical tests.

Note several steps that are involved in such interpretation.

(25 marks)