

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
B. ED (ADULT EDUCATION) YEAR 3
FINAL EXAMINATION, MAY 2012

TITLE OF PAPER : RESEARCH METHODS IN ADULT EDUCATION
COURSE CODE : IDE-BAE 317
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 FROM SECTION B CARRY EQUAL MARKS (25)**

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 (3) of the following are associated with qualitative research methods. Which one is not?

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

[2 marks]

Question 2

Experimental research differs from descriptive research in that it:

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

[2 marks]

Question 3

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

- (a) Constant variable
- (b) Confounding variable
- (c) Independent variable
- (d) Dependent variable

[2 marks]

Question 4

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 5

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 6

In cluster sampling, the main unit of sampling is the

(a) Population

(b) Individual

(c) Naturally-occurring group of individuals

(d) Population after having been sub-grouped on characteristics not related to research.

[2 marks]

Question 7

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) Options (A) and (B) only

[2 marks]

Question 8

Probability sampling designs include:

(a) simple random sampling

(b) stratified random sampling

(c) cluster sampling

(d) all the above options

[2 marks]

Question 9

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

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

[2 marks]

Question 10

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 11

State whether the following statements are true or false.

- (a) According to Borg and Gull (1989), one of the common mistakes which beginning researchers make is that the researcher puts off selection of a problem till the completion of all or most of the courses.
- (b) In participatory research, the problem to be studied originates in the community or workplace itself.
- (c) Participatory research involves the people in the workplace or community who control the entire research process.
- (d) The use of systematic questionnaires or interview procedures to ask prescribed questions from respondents and recording their answers is not a feature of survey research.
- (e) A large number of respondents chosen through probability sampling procedures to represent the population of interest is a feature of survey research

[5 marks]

[Total marks = 25]

SECTION B

ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION

Question 12

Discuss the main features of the survey design, its uses and limitations [25 marks]

Question 13

What role do unobtrusive measures play in observational research? [25 marks]

Question 14

Discuss factors that have to be considered in determining the choice of sample size [25 marks]

Question 15

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

Question 16

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