

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ADULT EDUCATION) YEAR 3
SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION, MAY 2016

TITLE: RESEARCH METHODS IN ADULT EDUCATION

COURSE CODE: IDE-BAE317

TIME 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: SECTION A IS COMPULSORY.

ANSWER TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B.

SECTION A

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION.

A research plan is critical to the success of any research. As a researcher you need to plan your research starting with the approach that will underpin the study. Knowing the approach will influence the population, sampling, research design, data collection and analysis.

Question 1

With the aid of examples; justify when and why you would choose to use the following research paradigms

- a) Mixed methods research **3 marks**
- b) Quantitative methods research **3 marks**
- c) Qualitative methods research **3 marks**

Total marks [9]

Question 2

- a) For each of the paradigms above; choose at least two (2) research designs that align themselves with each approach. **6 marks**
- b) Give at least two (2) advantages and two (2) disadvantages of the designs you have selected in 2 (a). **12 marks**
- c) Discuss how the knowledge of research traditions or paradigms influences the choice of a research design and sampling in any particular study. **22 marks**

Total marks [40]

Question 3

- a) Data collection is very important in research. Describe the two (2) types of data that you are likely to collect as a researcher.
2 marks
- b) With which of the research paradigms can you associate these data? **2 marks**
- c) Discuss how you can go about analysing the data you have mentioned in (a) above.
4 marks
- d) With the aid of examples; briefly discuss the problems associated with the collection of wrong data. **3 marks**

Total marks [11]

Section 2

Answer two (2) questions from this section.

Question 4

Most of the African icons such as Sobhuza II, Nelson Mandela and Julius Nyerere have contributed a lot to shape their countries and influence practice in the continent.

- a) Select a research design that can best help you to understand the contributions of these leaders. **1 mark**
- b) Describe the research design that you have selected. **4 marks**
- c) What could be the advantages and disadvantages of such a design? **8 marks**
- d) Describe how you would go about recruiting a sample for your study? **4 marks**
- e) Describe the data collection instruments that would be more suitable in this particular study. **3 marks**

Total marks [20]

Question 5

You have been appointed to be the Director of Adult Education in the Ministry of Education and Training in Swaziland. One of your mandates is to ensure the efficient running of all adult education and rural education centres in the country. In order to be able to do this you need to conduct a base -line survey to ascertain the current situation.

- a) With the aid of examples justify why a survey is the research design of choice. **5 marks**
- b) Outline the strengths and weaknesses of this design. **8 marks**
- c) With reference to this particular assignment; describe the population and sample for this study. **4 marks**
- d) Choose the sampling methods and techniques that you would use. **3 marks**

Total marks [20]

Question 6

Simple random sampling is one of the simplest sampling techniques in research; it ensures that every element of the population stands an equal chance of being represented in the sample.

- a) Describe the instances where you can use this sampling technique. **1 mark**
- b) How would you eliminate the element of bias? **3 marks**
- c) Describe the steps you would follow to recruit a sample for your study using simple random sampling. **16 marks**

Total marks [20]