UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION YEAR IV

FINAL EXAMINATION   MAY 2008

TITLE OF PAPER	:	RESEARCH METHODS AND EVALUATION
COURSE NUMBER	:	EDF 320 PAPER II
TIME ALLOWED	:	THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This paper is in two parts.
2. Answer all items in section A by putting a circle around the correct response on the answer card provided.
3. You are advised to spend not more than 20 minutes in this section.
4. Answer any Two questions from Section B.
5. Answer Section B in the answer booklet.
6. Answer cards are provided.

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

SECTION A

Answer all questions. Each question carries <u>one</u> mark.

1. What is the mean of the following data   60   45   25   40   55

   a. 45
   b. 43
   c. 35
   d. 50
   e. 40

2. The most frequently occurring value is known as the

   a. average deviation
   b. mean
   c. variance
   d. median
   e. mode

3. What is the median of the following set of scores?

       64   53   50   57   61   56   58   59

   a. 57
   b. 58
   c. 57.5
   d. 57.25
   e. 56

4. When you divide the sum of values by the number of observations, the resulting value is termed the

   a. variance
   b. mean
   c. range
   d. median
   e. mean deviation

5. Which measure(s) of central tendency would be most suitable for use by a furniture manufacturing company?
   a. Mode
   b. Median
   c. Mean
   d. a and c
   e. b and c

6. Which of these is true of the norminal scale?
   a. It assigns things only to categories
   b. It has a true zero
   c. It allows the user to rank data from highest to lowest
   d. Data in this scale can be broken into smaller units
   e. The values are absolute

7. What is the advantage of using the questionnaire in research?

   a. It is easy to construct
   b. It can reach all parts of the country
   c. It has a high response rate
   d. Data is easy to group
   e. It is cheap to administer

8. When a researcher lives with a group of people that he/she is studying for an extended time this is called
   a. Participation
   b. Voluntary absorption
   c. Indwelling
   d. Going native
   e. Going blind

9. Which of the above can be referred to as discrete data?

   a. The height of a door frame
   b. The number of chairs in a room
   c. Volume of water in a dam
   d. Weight of a baby
   e. Distance between Manzini and Mbabane

10. A researcher finds minutes of a meeting held by the organization written by the individual participants in a research project. Such information is called

    a. Secondary source
    b. Artifact
    c. Relic
    d. Literal data
    e. Primary source

11. Three different methods are used to collect data on the same research problem and the data collected is compared to determine their validity. This method of validating research data is called

    a. Content validity
    b. Social validity
    c. Ecological validity
    d. Triangulation
    e. Standardization

12. The significance of the study in a research project is to point out

   a. Who will collect the data
   b. What data will be collected
   c. The method used for data collection
   d. Who will benefit from the study
   e. The population of the study

13. Which of the following coefficients of correlation represents the weakest relationship between two variables?

   a. $r = -.59$
   b. $r = -0.69$
   c. $r = 0.49$
   d. $r = -0.32$
   e. $r = 0.11$

14. In an art show, one of the judges listed his preferences for three paintings. Which scale of measurement did he use?

   a. Ratio scale
   b. Ordinal scale
   c. Discrete scale
   d. Interval scale'
   e. Norminal scale

15. In which type of distribution do the Mean, Median and Mode coincide?

   a. Negatively skewed
   b. Bimodal
   c. Bell-shaped
   d. Polymodal
   e. Positively skewed

16. Sample bias means that
   There was no sampling done
   a. The sample does not represent the population
   b. The whole population was used as sample
   c. A random sampling method was used
   d. Both a and c

17. Two teachers using the same method to teach reading in two schools, one in a rich residential area and the other in a poor one, attributed the difference in the children's reading skills to other variables other than the teaching method. Which type of validity was threatened?

   a. Internal validity
   b. External validity
   c. Construct validity
   d. Concurrent validity
   e. Instrument validity

18. A research method in which one variable can be manipulated by the researcher is known as

    a.   Descriptive research
    b.   Correlational research
    c.   Historical research
    d.   Experimental research
    e.   Causal comparative research

19. Which of these is NOT a major purpose of literature review?

    a.   Assist the researcher to develop a good understanding of works already done in his area of research.
    b.   Provide the researcher with information about authors in his field of study
    c.   Provide the researcher with information about trends that have emerged in his area of interest.
    d.   Provide the researcher with information about areas that have not been covered in his field of specialization.
    e.   Provide the researcher with means of getting to the frontiers in his area of interest.

20. Which of the following statements would you say is in the null hypothesis form

    a.   Thulie and Gugu are about the same height
    b.   Gugu is likely to be shorter than Thulie.
    c.   Thulie is by far taller than Gugu
    d.   Thulie and Gugu are not the same height
    e.   Gugu is shorter than Thulie

21. Which of the following activities is an important component of research problem development and refinement?

    a.   Literature review
    b.   Instrument development
    c.   Data collection
    d.   Questionnaire design
    e.   All the above

22. Measures which cannot be broken down into smaller units are termed.

    a.   Quantitative data
    b.   Continuous data
    c.   Discrete data
    d.   Discontinuous data
    e.   Qualitative data

23. Which of the following statements is true of literature review in historical research?
   a. It is done after data collection stage
   b. It is a very minor part of the research process
   c. It partly provides research data
   d. It is irrelevant to the research process
   e. None of the above

24. What is the simplest measure of variability?

   a. Mode
   b. Median
   c. Mean
   d. Range
   e. Standard deviation

25. Content analysis and secondary data analysis are both research methods that use already existing information.

   a. True
   b. False
   c. Only content analysis is a research method
   d. Only secondary data analysis is a research method
   e. No research method analyses "existing information".

SECTION B

Answer any Three (3) questions. Each question carries 25 marks

1. a) Distinguish between probability and non-probability sampling.
   (4 marks)

   b) You are planning to draw a stratified random sample of 200 Primary school teachers from a population that contains 60% females and 40% males.

   Among the females: 20% are school heads, 15% are deputy heads, 25% senior teachers and 40% ordinary teachers.
   Among the males: 40% are school heads, 25% deputy heads,15% senior teachers and 20% ordinary teachers

   i) What is the total number of females in the sample   **(3 marks)**
   ii) What is the total number of males in the sample   **(2 marks)**
   iii) How many teachers would you need in each of the 8 categories in your sample?   **2×8 = 16 marks**
   [Total 25 marks]

2. You are planning to conduct research on how drought is affecting school enrolments in the Shiselweni Region of Swaziland. Discuss the different steps involved in your study addressing the following:

   a. Preparation for the research. **(5 marks)**

   b. Type of research you will carryout, defending your choice of method. **(7 marks)**

   c. Justification of the study; who will benefit from it and how? **(7 marks)**

   d. Write 3 research questions. **(6 marks)**

   [Total 25 marks[

3. Write short notes on any Four (4) of the following

   a. Snowball sampling
   b. Participant observation
   c. Factors affecting the external validity of an instrument
   d. Ethical issues in research
   e. Methodological triangulation

   6¼ marks each

4. Explain two (2) strengths and two (2) limitations of using documents as sources of research information.

   (4×6¼) marks each = 25 marks