

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND****FACULTY OF EDUCATION****FINAL EXAMINATIONS MAY/JUNE 2011**

**TITLE OF PAPER : RESEARCH METHODS AND EVALUATION**

**PROGRAMME : BED III**

**COURSE NUMBER : EDF 320 PAPER 1**

**TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. This paper is in two parts.**
- 2. Answer all items in section one by putting a cross through the letter of the correct response on the answer card provided.**
- 3. You are advised to spend not more than 45 minutes in this section.**
- 4. Answer all questions in Section B.**

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

1. What is the simplest measure of variability?
  - a. mode
  - b. median
  - c. range
  - d. standard deviation
  
2. What is the name for the most frequently occurring value in a set of scores?
  - a. Median
  - b. Mode
  - c. Mean
  - d. variance
  
3. When you divide a sum of values by the number of observations the resulting value is termed the
  - a. Summation
  - b. Variance
  - c. Mean
  - d. Median
  
4. Which of the following measures of central tendency would be most useful for use by a shoe manufacturer?
  - a. Mode
  - b. Median
  - c. Mean
  - d. all the above
  
5. Which of the following is the lowest skill in Bloom's Taxonomy of cognitive skills?
  - a. Application
  - b. Comprehension
  - c. Analysis
  - d. Knowledge
  
6. Spiwe, a grade 3 pupil, was able to spell 6 out of 10 words correctly. This is an example of
  - a. Criterion referencing
  - b. Diagnostic evaluation
  - c. Norm referencing
  - d. Both norm and criterion referencing

7. How does a teacher ensure that a test is valid?
  - a. Makes sure that everyone passes the test
  - b. Gives the test twice and correlates the scores
  - c. Adequately samples content covered during instruction
  - d. Uses a marking guide to score the test.
  
8. When a teacher constructs a test he/she should always consider minimum time in terms of
  - a. Constructing the test
  - b. Scoring the test
  - c. Administering the test
  - d. Interpreting test results
  
9. The mean, median and mode coincide in a distribution that is
  - a. bimodal
  - b. positively skewed
  - c. negatively skewed
  - d. bell-shaped
  
10. In multiple choice tests the statements that make it difficult for a test taker to select the correct response are called
  - a. Distracters
  - b. Options
  - c. Keys
  - d. Stems
  
11. What type of test is a driving test?
  - a. Speed test
  - b. Norm referenced test
  - c. Criterion referenced test
  - d. Power test
  
12. The most important advantage of the objective test over an essay test is that objective test items
  - a. Are easy to construct
  - b. Cover a large content area
  - c. Allow those with little subject mastery to pass
  - d. Allow those with low thinking skills to pass

13. Which is the best way to estimate the validity of a test?
  - a. Use a table of specification
  - b. Carry out item analysis
  - c. Carry out item trials
  - d. Administer the test twice
  
14. Which type of evaluation provides information about specific learning problems of learners?
  - a. Placement evaluation
  - b. Formative evaluation
  - c. Diagnostic evaluation
  - d. Summative evaluation
  
15. Which of these describe a test that is not usable?
  - a. It takes too long to score
  - b. It requires too many people to administer it
  - c. It needs too much input
  - d. all the above
  
16. Which of the following types of tests is least affected by guessing?
  - a. True-false
  - b. Extended essay
  - c. Multiple choice
  - d. Short answer
  
17. Which of these can be referred as continuous data?
  - a. Number of pages in a book
  - b. Height of a tree
  - c. Number of cars along the road
  - d. Number of children in a class.
  
18. What do we call a scale with an absolute zero?
  - a. ordinal scale
  - b. ratio scale
  - c. interval scale
  - d. summation scale
  
19. An objective which every child in class is expected to achieve is called a/an
  - a. Content objective
  - b. Learning objective
  - c. Immediate objective
  - d. Mastery objective

20. When the Examination Council of Swaziland (ECOS) trains its markers which aspect of the instrument is it taking care of?
- reliability
  - usability
  - validity
  - all the above
21. A BED 111 student was working out a correlation between two Maths scores and obtained an "r" of 2.3. What is certain about this result?
- the relationship is extremely positive
  - a computation error has been made
  - the relationship is very strong
  - both a and c.
22. In a Geography multiple choice test administered to 60 Form 3 students, 13 of them in the upper third and 4 in the lower third got the correct answer to item 7. If all the students who took the test responded to item 7, determine the item difficulty.
- 20.81%
  - 34.42%
  - 49.28%
  - 28.33%
23. The correlation coefficient between a group performance on two tests (Test A and Test B) is  $-0.83$ . What explanation would you advance for the result?
- The class performed very well in both tests.
  - The class performed well in one test and poorly in the other.
  - There is practically no relationship between the two tests.
  - The relationship between the scores of the two tests is very weak.
24. In order to improve the accuracy and impartiality in scoring essay tests a teacher must
- score all items in one paper before scoring the others
  - read all the scripts once before scoring them
  - evaluate all the scripts anonymously
  - Prepare a marking guide for all questions before scoring the work.
- (i) and (ii)
  - (ii), (iii) and (iv)
  - (i), (iii) and (iv)
  - (i) and (iv)

25. Its greatest advantage is that it measures higher order skills. Which type of test item is being referred to?
- a. Extended essay type
  - b. Restricted essay type
  - c. Completion type
  - d. True-false type

***PLEASE TURN OVER FOR SECTION B***

## SECTION B

**INSTRUCTIONS: Answer all questions in this section. The answers must be written in the answer book provided.**

### Question 1

- a. Supporting your response with illustrations from the local school system, give and fully explain any four factors that would influence you to choose an objective test over an essay test in assessing your students. (20 marks)
- b. Explain at least two challenges that teachers might encounter in using objective tests. (5 marks)

### Question 2

- a. Explain the concept of formative assessment. ( 5 marks)
- b. Show how formative assessment can be used to improve both teaching and learning. (10 marks)
- c. Examine the conditions in the nations schools that make it difficult for teachers to effectively implement formative assessment. (10 marks)

### Question 3

Write explanatory notes (about 8 lines) on each of the following

- a. The value of criterion referencing a test
- b. The test-retest method of estimating reliability
- c. Assessing learners before instruction
- d. Advantages of an oral test
- e. Challenges of assessing a product

(5x5 marks each = 25 marks)

**TOTAL MARKS FOR THE PAPER 100 MARKS**