

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**



**FACULTY OF EDUCATION**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS AND MANAGEMENT**

**FINAL EXAMINATIONS PAPER MAY 2015**

**TITLE OF PAPER:** QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

**COURSE NUMBER:** EDF 651

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

**INSTRUCTIONS:** THERE ARE THREE SECTIONS IN THIS PAPER –  
SECTIONS A, B, AND C.

SECTIONS A AND B ARE COMPULSORY. CHOOSE  
ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION C

TOTAL MARK ALLOCATION: 100

**Do not open until told to do so by the chief invigilator**

## SECTION A: COMPULSORY

### Multiple Choice and True-False questions

#### INSTRUCTIONS

You are to write all your answers in your exam answer booklet provided. Read the following instructions carefully and use the sample below as a guide.

1. This exam section contains 30 multiple choice and True or False questions, each worth 1 point.
2. On this Multiple-Choice and True or False exam each question or item is followed by a series of possible answers or choices.
3. Read each question and decide which answer or choice is best.
4. Write the letter of the best choice in your answer booklet with your PEN.
5. Write **LEGIBLY**.
6. Cross out any answers you wish to change and write afresh. **DO NOT USE CORRECTIONAL FLUID.**
7. Answer all questions. Your exam score will be based on the number of questions you answer correctly. There is no penalty for guessing.

Review the example below to see the right way to present your best answer or choice. This is a **SAMPLE** question. Do not answer this question on YOUR answer booklet. Choice "c" is the correct answer.

#### QUESTION #1: Two times five equals

- A. 6
- B. 9
- C. 10
- D. 15

#### RIGHT WAY!

1. C

#### WRONG WAY

1.  A X C

1. Mrs.Thwala is writing her daily observations of a student and writes, without interpretation, that the student is not completing the class work and is constantly speaking out of turn. Which of the following objectives does she appear to be using?
  - a. Prediction
  - b. Description
  - c. Explanation
  - d. Exploration
  
2. Which of the following is a form of research typically conducted by teachers, counselors, and other professionals to answer questions they have and to specifically help them solve local problems?
  - a. Action research
  - b. Basic research
  - c. Predictive research
  - d. Phenomenology research
  
3. Research that is done to examine the findings of someone else using the "same variables but different people" is which of the following?
  - a. Exploration
  - b. Hypothesis
  - c. Replication
  - d. Empiricism
  
4. A researcher designs an experiment to test how variables interact to influence how well children learn spelling words. In this case, the main purpose of the study was:
  - a. Explanation
  - b. Description
  - c. Influence
  - d. Prediction
  
5. Which "scientific method" follows these steps: 1) observation/data, 2) patterns, 3) theory?
  - a. Inductive
  - b. Deductive
  - c. Imductive
  - d. Top-down

6. What is the epistemological position held by a positivist?
  - a. There is no substitute for an in-depth, hermeneutic understanding of society.
  - b. Scientific research should be based on value-free, empirical observations.
  - c. Events and discourses in the social world prevent us from having direct knowledge of the natural order.
  - d. It is important to remain optimistic about our research, even when things go wrong.
  
7. Which of the following influences the position a researcher takes on the research process?
  - a. Phenomenology
  - b. Interest groups
  - c. Research paradigm
  - d. Social desirability
  
8. The conduct of reflexive research entails answering which of the following questions?
  - a. What particular biases, if any, do I bring to my research?
  - b. How do my specific values, attitudes, and theoretical perspectives influence my research style?
  - c. How does my own agenda shape what I ask and what I find?
  - d. All of the above are correct.
  
9. In qualitative research, which of the following refers to the plausibility of findings and the credibility of interpretations and explanations?
  - a. Reliability
  - b. Sampling
  - c. Triangulation
  - d. Validity
  
10. Which research paradigm is based on the **pragmatic** view of reality?
  - a. Quantitative research
  - b. Qualitative research
  - c. Mixed research
  - d. None of the above
  
11. Which research paradigm is **least concerned** about generalizing its findings?
  - a. Quantitative research
  - b. Qualitative research
  - c. Mixed research
  - d. None of the above

12. Which of the following best describes quantitative research?
- The collection of nonnumerical data
  - An attempt to confirm the researcher's hypotheses
  - Research that is exploratory
  - Research that attempts to generate a new theory
13. All of the following are common characteristics of experimental research except:
- it relies primarily on the collection of numerical data
  - it can produce important knowledge about cause and effect
  - it uses the deductive scientific method
  - it rarely is conducted in a controlled setting or environment
14. A good qualitative problem statement:
- defines the independent and dependent variables
  - conveys a sense of emerging design
  - specifies a research objective and question
  - specifies the relationship between variables that the researcher expects to find
15. The statement of purpose in a research study should:
- identify the design of the study
  - identify the intent or objective of the study
  - specify the type of people to be used in the study
  - describe the study
16. Why is the statement "What are the effects of extracurricular activities on cognitive development of school age children" not a good statement of a quantitative research question?
- Because there is no connection between extracurricular activities and cognitive development
  - Because there are not enough school age children engaged in extracurricular activities to conduct the study
  - Because the study would be too difficult to do given all the different extracurricular activities
  - Because the statement was not specific enough to provide an understanding of the variables being investigated
17. A qualitative research question:
- asks a question about some process, or phenomenon to be explored
  - is generally an open-ended question
  - both a and b are correct
  - none of the above

18. Which of the following need(s) to be obtained when doing research with children?
- Informed consent from the parent or guardian
  - Assent from the child if he or she is capable
  - Informed consent from the child
  - Both a and b
19. Zodwa studies the culture of coffee shops in academic communities. She goes to two of the local coffee shops and observes several times a week at various times for a full year. She interviews patrons about the types of activities they engage in while at the coffee shop. She also asks three regulars to keep a brief journal regarding their experiences and what they accomplish at the coffee shop. Which of the following most accurately describes this procedure?
- Ethology inquiry
  - Phenomenological inquiry
  - Interview inquiry
  - Qualitative inquiry
20. Grounded theory, in qualitative research was designed to generate theory from the bottom-up and researcher's views are critical in the research process.
- True
  - False
21. Phenomenology has its disciplinary origins in philosophy.
- True
  - False
22. Qualitative and quantitative researchers are in agreement about philosophical assumptions.
- True
  - False
23. A purposive or judgment sample is often chosen based on the particular research question and the resources available to the researcher.
- True
  - False

24. One way to check the validity of research findings is to employ the technique of methods triangulation, or using at least two different methods to address the same research question.
- a. True
  - b. False
25. Reliability refers to the internal consistency of observations.
- a. True
  - b. False
26. Analytic generalizability is the aim of both qualitative and quantitative research.
- a. True
  - b. False
27. Structural analysis is a case study data analysis approach aimed at looking for patterns.
- a. True
  - b. False
28. Snowball sampling is not a type of non-probability sampling
- a. True
  - b. False
29. In a qualitative study, a focus group consists of a group of individuals (usually 4-8 in number) who meet together with a moderator to answer questions and discuss a given topic and the moderator is knowledgeable of all group dynamics.
- a. True
  - b. False
30. Pilot study is conducted to check for reliability and validity of instruments and data collection strategies.
- a. True
  - b. False

## SECTION B: COMPULSORY

### **Question 1 (40 marks)**

The following is a scenario for you to consider along with other questions. As a requirement for your qualitative research methods class you are required to submit a proposal as an initial step towards preparation of your thesis. Based on the scenario given come up with a working title for the proposed research and then prepare a brief proposal including all the important sections and elements of a proposal for the study.

### **Scenario**

Children's rights to health and wellbeing are increasingly the focus of national and regional governments. The major interest is on their adoption and implementation as social policy. Children's education rights are particularly important in that their realization matters to the health of families, communities and national development. In recent decades, the rights of the girl-child have been of particular focus; and increasingly, the rights of the boy child are receiving attention. You want to study the processes or outcomes from the adoption or implementation of children's rights in your community and particularly education rights. Work through the scenario to develop a research proposal around this topic. *(Hint: Write within 1000 words)*

## SECTION C

**Answer ONE (1) question from this section.**

### **Question 1 (30 marks)**

- I. Continuum or dichotomy? Discuss the distinction between the qualitative and the quantitative methods. Give concrete examples.
- II. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using both qualitative and quantitative research inquiry approaches? *(Hint: Write within 500 words)*

### **Question 2 (30 marks)**

- I. Discuss the issues of credibility and trustworthiness of data with qualitative research inquiry. Consider specific approaches to determine the credibility and trustworthiness of qualitative study. *(Hint: Write within 500 words)*