

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND



FACULTY OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

FINAL EXAMINATIONS PAPER MAY 2016

TITLE OF PAPER: QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

COURSE NUMBER: EDF 651/EFM 602

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: THERE ARE **THREE** (3) 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

THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF 7 PAGES INCLUDING COVER PAGE

**DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO BY THE CHIEF
INVIGILATOR**

SECTION A: COMPULSORY (50 marks)

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 25 multiple choice and True or False questions, each worth 2 points.
2. On this Multiple-Choice and True or False examination 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. Use of correctional fluid will result in a zero mark awarded.**
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 by five equals

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

RIGHT WAY!

1. C

WRONG WAY

CX

1. An important criticism of positivism relates to
 - a. validity of data.
 - b. ethics.
 - c. spirituality.
 - d. the meaning of reality.

2. Process in qualitative research, is seen as
 - a. too hard to study.
 - b. an unfortunate complication.
 - c. of major importance.
 - d. impossible to clarify.

3. Which of the following is NOT a method of quantitative research?
 - a. Grounded Theory Research.
 - b. Correlational Research.
 - c. Quasi-Experimental Research.
 - d. Experimental Research.

4. The grounded theory approach was developed by
 - a. Heidegger.
 - b. Glaser and Strauss.
 - c. Guba and Corbin.
 - d. Denzin.

5. Deductive process is applied in:
 - a. Qualitative research.
 - b. Quantitative research.
 - c. Action research.
 - d. Applied research.

6. Which of the following is a qualitative research design where lived experiences of individuals are examined in their "life-world"?
 - a. Grounded approach.
 - b. Ethnography.
 - c. Case study.
 - d. Phenomenology.

7. Which of the following is a characteristic of qualitative research?
 - a. deductive process.
 - b. control over the context.
 - c. fixed research design.
 - d. inductive process.

8. Qualitative research design involves
 - a. Emergent design.
 - b. Correlative design.
 - c. Experimental design.
 - d. Cohort design.

9. 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.

10. In qualitative research, a guiding principle in deciding sample size is:
 - a. effect size.
 - b. number of variables.
 - c. data saturation.
 - d. sub-group analysis.

11. Which of the following is a philosophical assumption of qualitative researchers?
 - a. facts and values are distinct from one another.
 - b. the proper design of research investigations will lead to accurate conclusions about the nature of the world.
 - c. values are an integral part of the research process.
 - d. facts stand independent of the knower and can be known in an undistorted.

12. Qualitative researchers view changes in procedures during a study as
 - a. a weakness.
 - b. frustrating.
 - c. a good thing.
 - d. to be avoided.

13. Eight focus groups were audiotaped to exam citizens' attitudes toward the building of a private school in their region. The advantage of using this approach to focus groups is:
 - a. interviewers need little skill.
 - b. interviewers can easily control the focus group's discussion.
 - c. the tapes are easily analyzed.
 - d. high face validity.

14. Participants in unstructured interviews and focus groups are usually sampled by means of:
 - a. a stratified random sample.
 - b. accidental and quota samples.
 - c. purposive and snowball samples.
 - d. all of the above.

15. Which is not a criticism of quantitative research made by qualitative researchers?
 - a. is not creative.
 - b. oversimplifies.
 - c. treats people as objects.
 - d. generalizability.

16. Which of the following needs to be obtained when doing research with children?
 - a. informed consent from the parent or guardian.
 - b. assent from the child if he or she is capable.
 - c. informed consent from the child.
 - d. both a and b.

17. Credibility is the researcher's ability to take into account all the complexities that present themselves in the study and deal with patterns that are not easily explained
 - a. True.
 - b. False.

18. Case study research is a qualitative approach in which researchers focus on a unit of study or more known as bounded system (e.g., individual teachers, a classroom or a school).
 - a. True.
 - b. False.

19. Qualitative data analysis is a cyclical, iterative process of reviewing data for common topics or themes. One approach to analysis is to follow three iterative steps: reading/memoing, describing what is going on in the setting, and classifying research data.
 - a. True.
 - b. False.

20. In phenomenology reality is comprehended through embodied experience, through close examination of individual experiences, phenomenological seek to capture the meaning and common features, or essences of an experience only.
 - a. True.
 - b. False.

21. Discourse analysis is concerned with language in-use; that is how individuals accomplish personal, social, and political research through language.
 - a. True.
 - b. False.

22. Interpretivist paradigm states that reality is subjective and constructed therefore there are many truths.
 - a. True.
 - b. False.

23. Critical theory looks at the influence of social-political structures and power on people's lived experiences.
 - a. True.
 - b. False.

24. Qualitative and quantitative research methods are increasingly used together in educational research studies
 - a. True.
 - b. False.

25. Generalizing in qualitative research is based on the sampling method.
 - a. True.
 - b. False.

SECTION B: COMPULSORY

Question 1 (30 marks)

The following is a scenario for you to consider along with your knowledge of the Qualitative Research Methods course. You have been recently hired as a researcher by an organization commissioned by the Ministry of Education and Training to develop a research proposal to be submitted to the Ministry based on the scenario below. As a guide include all components of introductory chapter and method chapter. Do not include the **literature review chapter** as this has already been done for you by a senior researcher in your organization.

Scenario

Children's rights to health and wellbeing are increasingly the focus of national and regional governments. Children's health rights are particularly important in their realization matters to educational and national development. In a world where approximately 33.4 million people are estimated to be living with HIV, 1.8 million were children below 15 years of age in 2014. Children represent the potential for a healthy society and need to be supported to benefit from their ability yet they suffer an impact from HIV/AIDS and need more care and support from parents and teachers. Classrooms that are highly burdened by HIV/AIDS may pose additional challenges for teachers as they force educators to play multiple roles including teaching and possibly parenting providing emotional and supportive health care. Owing to the considerable time teachers spend with children, the onus often falls on teachers to provide care, treatment, emotional support, and counselling to children living with HIV in high-burden areas. The Ministry of Education and Training is interested in studying the role of the school teacher in the context of HIV in Swaziland. Work through the given scenario to develop a research proposal beginning with a topic statement. (*Hint: Write within 1000 words*).

Note: You cannot just **regurgitate** my class notes on proposal writing you are to develop research proposal using my class notes to you.

- a) Develop a research topic statement. (2 marks)
- b) Outline elements of the introductory chapter (12 marks) and method chapter based on the given scenario above. (16 marks)

SECTION C

Answer ONE (1) question from this section.

Question 1 (20 marks)

- a) How would you explain distinctions between the qualitative and the quantitative research methods to your grandmother using concrete examples? (12 marks)
- b) Contrast between grounded theory and phenomenology regarding origins, proponents and aims by means of a table (8 marks)

Question 2 (20 marks)

- a) Discuss non-probability sampling with reference to appropriate research approach.(5 marks)
- b) List and briefly describe four (4) types of non-probability sampling procedures giving concrete examples for each (15 marks)