UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

Faculty of Health Science

Department of Environmental Health Sciences

Final Examination 2007

TITLE OF PAPER	:	RESEARCH METHODS AND STATISTICS
COURSE CODE	:	HSC 301
DURATION	:	2 HOURS
MARKS	:	100
INSTRUCTIONS	:	READ THE QUESTIONS & INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY
	:	ANSWER FIVE QUESTIONS
	:	EACH QUESTION CARRIES 20 MARKS
	:	NO PAPER SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO NOR OUT OF THE EXAMINATION ROOM
	:	BEGIN EACH QUESTION ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER

DO NOT OPEN THE QUESTION PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

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Question 1

The average serum glucose values (mg/dl) for 39 stroke patients are shown below. Thirteen of the patients died or failed to improve while 26 improved.

Failed to improve/died:

85	92	115	137	177	198	215	257	273	280
295	307	377							

Improved:

68	72	76	85	87	90	93	94	94	95
97	98	103	105	105	107	114	117	118	119
123	124	127	151	159	217				

Compare the main characteristics of these data using appropriate visual displays. In particular comment on the two groups in terms of their "mid" values and their relative variability.

(25 Marks)

Question 2

a) Suppose that 5% of all children suffer from an environmental allergy. In an area near a large factory, a sample of 100 children showed that 15 suffered from the allergy.

   i) What is the probability that as many as 15 would suffer from the allergy if the sample was from a population with a rate of 5%?
   ii) Would the fact that 15 from the 100 in this area suffer suggest that the rate might be higher than the average? Why?

b) If you administered a drug to 100 patients and found that 24 had a toxic reaction, what would be your estimate of the 90% confidence interval for the rate of toxic reaction to this drug?

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Question 3

Part of the nuclear debate centres on the health consequences of contamination of rivers by leakage of stored radioactive wastes. During a study of this important question the cancer mortality rate in each of nine regions near a contaminated river was recorded along with an "index of exposure" to contamination. The intention was to investigate the relationship between radioactive contamination and cancer mortality. The following data were obtained.

Index of exposure	Cancer mortality per 100,000
2.49	147.1
2.59	130.1
3.41	129.9
1.25	113.5
1.62	137.5
3.83	162.3
11.64	207.5
6.41	177.9
8.34	210.3

Calculate the strength of the relationship, prediction equation. Comment on the appropriateness of the prediction line.

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Question 4

a) Suppose that 5% of all children suffer from an environmental allergy. In an area near a large factory a sample of 100 children showed that 15 suffered from the allergy.

   i) What is the probability that as many as 15 would suffer from the allergy if the sample was from a population with a rate of 5%?

   ii) Would the fact that 15 from the 100 in this area suffer suggest that the rate might be higher than the average? Why?

b) Percentages of ideal body weight were determined for 18 randomly selected insulin-dependent diabetics and are shown below. A percentage of 120 means that an individual weighs 20% more than his or her ideal body weight; a percentage of 95 means that the individual weighs 5% less than the ideal.

   107 119 99 114 120 104 88 114 124 116 101 121 152 100 125 114 95 117 (%)

   Compute a 95% confidence interval for the true mean percent-age of ideal body weight for the population of insulin-dependent

Question 5

i) What are the differences between the research concepts listed below:

a) Problem statement and background information.
b) Hypothesis and purpose of the study
c) Research determinant and research decisions
d) Ethical issues and research rigor
e) Dependent and independent variables

{10 marks}

ii) What is the importance of conducting research in environmental health science?

{10 marks}

iii) Explain clearly as to how a topic is developed in research proposal development.

{5 marks}

[25 marks]

Question 6

Discuss clearly the importance of the following concepts in research proposal development, ethical issues, Rigor and research conducting to students.

i) Ethical issues {10 marks}
ii) Research rigor {10 marks}
iii) Research conducting on students {5 marks}

[25 marks]

Table A.1 Areas in one tail of the standard normal curve

z	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.09
0.0	0.500	0.496	0.492	0.488	0.484	0.480	0.476	0.472	0.468	0.464
0.1	0.460	0.456	0.452	0.448	0.444	0.440	0.436	0.433	0.429	0.425
0.2	0.421	0.417	0.413	0.409	0.405	0.401	0.397	0.394	0.390	0.386
0.3	0.382	0.378	0.374	0.371	0.367	0.363	0.359	0.356	0.352	0.348
0.4	0.345	0.341	0.337	0.334	0.330	0.326	0.323	0.319	0.316	0.312
0.5	0.309	0.305	0.302	0.298	0.295	0.291	0.288	0.284	0.281	0.278
0.6	0.274	0.271	0.268	0.264	0.261	0.258	0.255	0.251	0.248	0.245
0.7	0.242	0.239	0.236	0.233	0.230	0.227	0.224	0.221	0.218	0.215
0.8	0.212	0.209	0.206	0.203	0.200	0.198	0.195	0.192	0.189	0.187
0.9	0.184	0.181	0.179	0.176	0.174	0.171	0.169	0.166	0.164	0.161
1.0	0.159	0.156	0.154	0.152	0.149	0.147	0.145	0.142	0.140	0.138
1.1	0.136	0.133	0.131	0.129	0.127	0.125	0.123	0.121	0.119	0.117
1.2	0.115	0.113	0.111	0.109	0.107	0.106	0.104	0.102	0.100	0.099
1.3	0.097	0.095	0.093	0.092	0.090	0.089	0.087	0.085	0.084	0.082
1.4	0.081	0.079	0.078	0.076	0.075	0.074	0.072	0.071	0.069	0.068
1.5	0.067	0.066	0.064	0.063	0.062	0.061	0.059	0.058	0.057	0.056
1.6	0.055	0.054	0.053	0.052	0.051	0.049	0.048	0.047	0.046	0.046
1.7	0.045	0.044	0.043	0.042	0.041	0.040	0.039	0.038	0.038	0.037
1.8	0.036	0.035	0.034	0.034	0.033	0.032	0.031	0.031	0.030	0.029
1.9	0.029	0.028	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.024	0.024	0.023
2.0	0.023	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	0.020	0.020	0.019	0.019	0.018
2.1	0.018	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.014
2.2	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011
2.3	0.011	0.010	0.010	0.010	0.010	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.008
2.4	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.006
2.5	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005
2.6	0.005	0.005	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004
2.7	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003
2.8	0.003	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
2.9	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.001
3.0	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
3.1	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
3.2	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
3.3	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
3.4	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

Table A.2 Percentiles of the t distribution

	Area in One Tail					
df	**0.10**	**0.05**	**0.025**	**0.01**	**0.005**	**0.0005**
1	3.078	6.314	12.706	31.821	63.657	636.619
2	1.886	2.920	4.303	6.965	9.925	31.599
3	1.638	2.353	3.182	4.541	5.841	12.924
4	1.533	2.132	2.776	3.747	4.604	8.610
5	1.476	2.015	2.571	3.365	4.032	6.869
6	1.440	1.943	2.447	3.143	3.707	5.959
7	1.415	1.895	2.365	2.998	3.499	5.408
8	1.397	1.860	2.306	2.896	3.355	5.041
9	1.383	1.833	2.262	2.821	3.250	4.781
10	1.372	1.812	2.228	2.764	3.169	4.587
11	1.363	1.796	2.201	2.718	3.106	4.437
12	1.356	1.782	2.179	2.681	3.055	4.318
13	1.350	1.771	2.160	2.650	3.012	4.221
14	1.345	1.761	2.145	2.624	2.977	4.140
15	1.341	1.753	2.131	2.602	2.947	4.073
16	1.337	1.746	2.120	2.583	2.921	4.015
17	1.333	1.740	2.110	2.567	2.898	3.965
18	1.330	1.734	2.101	2.552	2.878	3.922
19	1.328	1.729	2.093	2.539	2.861	3.883
20	1.325	1.725	2.086	2.528	2.845	3.850
21	1.323	1.721	2.080	2.518	2.831	3.819
22	1.321	1.717	2.074	2.508	2.819	3.792
23	1.319	1.714	2.069	2.500	2.807	3.768
24	1.318	1.711	2.064	2.492	2.797	3.745
25	1.316	1.708	2.060	2.485	2.787	3.725
26	1.315	1.706	2.056	2.479	2.779	3.707
27	1.314	1.703	2.052	2.473	2.771	3.690
28	1.313	1.701	2.048	2.467	2.763	3.674
29	1.311	1.699	2.045	2.462	2.756	3.659
30	1.310	1.697	2.042	2.457	2.750	3.646
40	1.303	1.684	2.021	2.423	2.704	3.551
50	1.299	1.676	2.009	2.403	2.678	3.496
60	1.296	1.671	2.000	2.390	2.660	3.460
70	1.294	1.667	1.994	2.381	2.648	3.435
80	1.292	1.664	1.990	2.374	2.639	3.416
90	1.291	1.662	1.987	2.368	2.632	3.402
100	1.290	1.660	1.984	2.364	2.626	3.390
110	1.289	1.659	1.982	2.361	2.621	3.381
120	1.289	1.658	1.980	2.358	2.617	3.373
∞	1.282	1.645	1.960	2.327	2.576	3.291