

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL NURSING
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER MAY 2007

Course Code	NUR 332
Course title	Research Methods
No of students	31
Duration	Two (2) hours
Total marks	70

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer ALL questions.
2. Write all your answers in the provided answer booklet.
3. Read the questions thoroughly and thoughtfully.
4. Handwriting must be big and legible.
5. Figures in brackets represent marks allocated per question or a part thereof.

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SECTION A
MUTLIPLI CHOICE QUESTIONS

INSTRUCTION

Select the most appropriate answer and write it in your answer book.

Example: 1 = a ; 2 = b, and so forth.

1. Applied research refers to
- a. research that is conducted to generate new knowledge in order to increase the existing body of knowledge in a discipline.
 - b. research that is conducted in order to find solutions to immediate practical problems.
 - c. research that is conducted to explain why things happen the way they do.
 - d. all the above.

Questions 2 through 4 refer to the following situation. A researcher wishes to conduct a study whose purpose is to explore and describe whether absence from the wards on clinical practice days by nursing students, is associated with shortage of equipment in the hospital wards.

2. The phenomenon of interest to the researcher is the
- a. poor nursing care the clients are receiving.
 - b. concern that the students might fail their practical examinations.
 - c. absence of students from the wards.
 - d. shortage of equipment in the wards.
3. The independent variable in this study is
- a. the nursing students,
 - b. absence from the wards.
 - c. clinical practice days.
 - d. shortage of equipment in the wards.

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4. The dependent variable in this study is
- the nursing students,
 - absence from the wards.
 - clinical practice days.
 - shortage of equipment in the wards.
5. All the following are advantages of using a self-administered questionnaire EXCEPT
- secrecy.
 - privacy.
 - anonymity.
 - illiteracy.
6. Which of the following hypotheses is a non-directional hypothesis?
- Older nurses are more caring than younger nurses.
 - There is no difference between professional registered nurses and nursing assistants with regards to utilizing the nursing process in rendering care to clients.
 - There is a relationship between caring and the way a nurse was raised as a child.
 - In general, male nurses demonstrate a less caring attitude towards clients than female nurses.
7. The Nuremberg Code and Declaration of Helsinki
- help to guide nursing practice the world over.
 - are both concerned with ethical issues of adults subjects the world over.
 - provide the foundation for numerous ethical research guidelines the world over.
 - are both concerned with ethical issues of children who are used as research subjects.

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8. The following statements about a structured questionnaire, are true EXCEPT that
- The researcher investigates a phenomenon from the perspective of objectivity.
 - The researcher utilises open-ended questions.
 - The researcher utilises forced responses.
 - The researcher utilises closed-ended questions.
9. A research abstract is generally found in the
- appendix section of the completed study project.
 - methodology section of the completed study project.
 - literature review section of the completed study project.
 - at the beginning of the completed study project.
- 10 A pilot study
- is carried out simultaneously with the research proposal development.
 - is carried out simultaneously with the data collection of the main study.
 - precedes the implementation of the main study.
 - is carried out after analysing the data of the main study.

[10 points]

SECTION B

FILL IN THE BLANK SPACES

INSTRUCTION:

Write the missing word in your answer book. Example: 1 = types ; 2 = description

- The _____ of literature review refers to the number and quality of sources of data that the researcher examines.
- The sample of a study refers to a _____ of the population with the characteristics which the researcher has interest in studying.

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3. A study whose scope is at level two research, seeks to explore and describe the _____ between one or more variables.

Questions 4 through 7 refer to the following situation. A researcher conducted a study in which he had 20 pre-school children whom he divided equally into groups A and B. Each group had 10 children. For the children in group A, the researcher let them take a 2 hour nap between 12 noon and 2 PM everyday Monday through Friday for a period of one month. With group B, the researcher did not let them take a nap but instead let them play. Among the major results, were that the parents of the children in group A complained that their children were still very active at bedtime while the parents of the children in group B reported that their children went to bed at their usual expected time.

4. The study design was _____ in nature.
5. The children in group A belonged to the _____ group.
6. The children in group B belonged to the _____ group.
7. The researcher did some _____ with the children in group A.
8. The _____ of literature review refers to the number of different sources of data examined by the researcher.
9. When conducting research, the researcher is usually interested in the _____ variable.
10. The age of a person is an example of a/an _____ variable.

[10 points]

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SECTION C
MISCELLANEOUS

INSTRUCTION

Answer as directed by each question in this section.

Question 1

Scientific research is a deliberate systematic process.

- 1.1 Describe the four phases of the research process. (6)
- 1.2 Outline any four components of the first phase of the research process. (4)
- 1.3 Describe any four reasons for conducting literature review before carrying out research. (8)
- 1.4 Differentiate between primary and secondary sources of information. (2)

[20 points]

Question 2

Research is imperative in nursing. A fourth year undergraduate nursing student desires to conduct a study entitled: THE ATTITUDES OF NIGHT NURSES TOWARD CLIENTS SUFFERING FROM AIDS IN MEDICAL WARDS AT THE HLATIKULU GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL.

The purpose of the study is to explore and describe the attitudes night nurses have toward hospitalised medical clients at the Hlatikulu Government Hospital.

- 2.1 Identify the variable that the researcher wishes to investigate. (1)
- 2.2 State any two sources whence the student might have identified the idea to carry out a study of this nature. (2)
- 2.3 Identify the
 - 2.3.1 phenomenon of interest to the researcher. (1)
 - 2.3.2 scope or the level of the study. (1) Motivate your

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answer (1).

[2]

2.3.3 population of the intended study. (1)

2.3.4 setting of the intended study. (1)

[10 points]

Question 3.

Ethical considerations are very important in nursing research since it deals mostly with human beings as participants.

3.1 Discuss any two ethical considerations that are included in the informed consent. (6)

3.3 List any four circumstances/situations whereby informed consent is given by some one else other than the participants in the sample. (4)

[10 points]

Question 4

Compare and contrast between quantitative and qualitative research designs with regards to the following:

4.1 Sample size. (2)

4.2 Type of data. (2)

4.3 Methods of data collection. (2)

4.4 Interpretations of findings (2)

4.5 Methods of sampling. (2)

[10 points]

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