

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

**(FIRST SEMESTER)
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER
DECEMBER 2007**

COURSE CODE: HSC 403

COURSE TITLE: HEALTH SYSTEMS RESEARCH

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) THIS PAPER CONTAINS FOUR (4) QUESTIONS.**
- 2) ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS**
- 3) EACH QUESTION IS TO BE ANSWERED ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER**

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

QUESTION 1

- A. Before any research can be started, whether it is a single study or an extended project, a literature search of previous studies and experience related to the proposed investigation should be done. State at least six valid reasons why the search must be done..... [6]

- B. Various types of sampling procedures are possible. Briefly explain use of each of the following sampling approaches listed below:
 - (i) Simple Random sampling..... [3]
 - (ii) Stratified sampling..... [3]
 - (iii) Purposive sampling.....[3]

- C. Why is it important to conduct a pilot test of the questionnaire before the actual data phase..... [5]

- D. Explain what is meant by the term “bracketing”[5]

TOTAL MARKS.....[25]

QUESTION 2

- A A systematic analysis of the problem is a very crucial step in designing the research study. Briefly describe why?..... [3]

- B Briefly explain why it is important to formulate objectives[4]

- C The variable “level of knowledge” cannot be measured directly. Briefly discuss how you would determine the knowledge on prenatal care and risks factors related to pregnancy among pregnant women.....[6]

- D A health researcher believes that in a certain region, anaemia, malaria and malnutrition are serious problems among adult males, in particular among farmers. He wishes to study the prevalence of these diseases among adult males of various ages, occupations and educational backgrounds to determine how serious a problem these diseases are for this population. Identify the dependent variables and state whether they are categorical or numerical.....[6]

- E The classical experimental study design has three characteristics. Briefly describe each of these characteristics.....[6]

TOTAL MARKS.....[25]

QUESTION 3

Focus groups interviews are a tool for collecting qualitative data from group discussions.

- 1) Briefly discuss advantages and disadvantages of using focus group interviews.....[10]
- ii) Describe the procedure that is necessary for the conduct of focus group interviews.....[15]

TOTAL MARKS.....[25]

QUESTION 4

- A. How would you distinguish a null hypothesis from a research hypothesis.....[4]
- B There are a number of procedures and mechanisms that are used in the course of a study to ensure that human rights are protected. Identify these procedures.....[3]
- C Briefly describe the mechanisms that can be used to ensure anonymity of participants in a research study.....[3]
- D **Read the following article carefully and discuss by way of identifying sentences that show if the researcher adhered to the ethical considerations required when conducting studies with human subjects.....[15]**

TITLE: EATING PATTERNS SUCCESSFUL DIETERS USE TO MAINTAIN WEIHT LOSS

INVESTIGATOR: WENDY CHABOYER

In response to your reply to the advertisement in the Times of Swaziland for successful dieters, I am herewith inviting you to participate in a research study on successful dieters. The purpose of the research is to see if there are any common features in the personal histories of successful dieters (weight losers) that can be share with unsuccessful weight losers. Although this study will not benefit you directly, the information obtained may help those who have trouble in losing weight and maintaining weight loss to hear how you and other successful dieters were able to do it. As far as I can tell, there should be no risks or discomforts to you in sharing your own story. Your participation will mean that you will meet me once for an audio taped interview lasting one to one-half hours. You will be requested to provide a photograph of yourself when overweight or a piece of clothing you may have saved and I will ask you to weigh yourself on my calibrated scale and let me measure your height. I will keep a record of who has participated in this

study, and will keep the tapes of our conversation interviews together with a transcription of those tapes. Your name will not be on the tape or on the transcription, so that data will not be linked with your name. All data will be stored in a secure place and no one except the research will have access to your interview. Your identity will not be revealed when the study is reported. If you have any questions (WENDY CHABOYER). You may call me at 4040004 work) or 5050005 Home.

Your participation is totally voluntary; you are under no obligation to participate. You have a right to withdraw anytime if you care to, without repercussion or penalty, even in the middle of the interview

The study and procedures has been approved by the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare of Swaziland.

TOTAL MARKS.....[25]