

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILND
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, DECEMBER 2009

TITLE OF PAPER: HEALTH SYSTEMS RESEARCH

COURSE CODE: HSC 403

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

MARKS: 75

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. THERE ARE THREE (3) QUESTIONS IN THIS PAPER**
- 2. ANSWER ALL THREE QUESTIONS**
- 3. EACH QUESTION IS ALLOCATED 25 MARKS**
- 4. EACH CORRECT STATEMENT OR FACT WITH RATIONALE
CARRIES ONE (1) MARK**
- 5. WRITE LEGIBLY**

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL THE INVESTIGATOR HAS
GRANTED PERMISSION.**

QUESTION 1

In the nursing profession it is imperative that nurses continue to conduct research, since the founder of nursing, Florence Nightingale was a researcher.

- A. State and describe five purposes for conducting research in nursing. (10)
- B. Describe any possible three (3) threats to a study's internal validity (9)
- C. Differentiate between phenomenological, ethnography and grounded theory research. (6)

TOTAL 25 MARKS**QUESTION 2**

- A. Differentiate between the following:
- (i) Empirical and naturalistic approach (4)
- (ii) Dependent and independent variable (4)
- (iii) Systematic and cluster sampling (4)
- (iv) Research objectives and research questions (4)
- B. Discuss any two human rights (related to research) and indicate how each of them could potentially be violated. (10)

TOTAL 25 MARKS

QUESTION 3

Write the letter that corresponds with the most appropriate answer e.g. 1. B

1. When each member of a population has an equal likely chance of being selected, this is called a:

- A. non-random sampling method
- B. Quota sample
- C. snowball sample
- D. probability selection method

2. Which of the following will give a more “accurate” representation of the population from which a sample has been taken?

- A. A large sample based on the convenience technique
- B. A small sample based on simple random sampling
- C. A large sample based on simple random sampling
- D. A small cluster sample

3. In which of the following non-random sampling techniques does the researcher ask the research participants to identify other potential research participants?

- A. Snowball
- B. Convenience
- C. Purposive
- D. Quota

4. If you took the 500 students attending at the Faculty of Health Sciences, divided them by gender, and then took a random sample of males and a random sample of females, the variable on which we would divide the population is called the _____.

- A. independent variable
- B. dependent variable
- C. stratification variable
- D. sampling variable

5. A figure calculated with complete population data and quantifies a characteristic of the population is called a _____.

- A. datum
- B. statistic
- C. parameter
- D. population

6. How much confidence should you place in a single research study? You should

- A. completely trust a single study
- B. trust findings after different researchers have found the same findings
- C. neither A nor B
- D. Both A nor B

7. There is a set of hospitals in Swaziland where part of the admission requirements include the presence of a lodger. The researcher wants to find out how people who are admitted feel and think about this requirement. In this case, the primary purpose of the study is:

- A. exploration
- B. description
- C. influence
- D. prediction

8. The type of qualitative research that describes events that took place in Nursing 100 years ago is called _____.

- A. Phenomenology
- B. Grounded
- C. Historical
- D. Ethnography

9. Which of the following need(s) to be obtained when conducting research with children (8-18 years)?

- A. assent from the parent or guardian
- B. assent from the child
- C. informed consent from the child
- D. both A and B

10. Ideally, the research participant's identity is not known to the researcher(s). This is called:

- A. anonymity
- B. confidentiality
- C. deception
- D. desensitization

11. When the participant is known only to the researcher and staff, it is called _____?

- A. anonymity
- B. confidentiality
- C. ethics
- D. discretion

12. According to Lipsey (1990), you need all of the following to determine your sample size, **EXCEPT** the

- A. effect size
- B. significance level
- C. statistical test
- D. power

13. Researchers use both open-ended and closed-ended questions to collect data. Which of the following statement is true?

- A. Open-ended questions directly provide quantitative data based on the researcher's predetermined response category
- B. Closed-ended questions provide quantitative data in the participant's own words
- C. Open-ended questions provide qualitative data in the participant's own words
- D. Closed-ended questions directly provide qualitative data in the participant's own words

14. Which of the following is **NOT** a method to collect data?

- A. Questionnaires
- B. Interviews
- C. Experiments
- D. Observation

15. When conducting an interview, asking "anything else? what do you mean?, why do you feel that way?" etc, are all forms of:

- A. probes
- B. filter questions
- C. response categories
- D. protocols

16. Another name for a Likert scale is a (n):

- A. Interview protocol
- B. Event sampling
- C. Summated rating scale
- D. Ranking

17. It is recommended to use the whole population rather than a sample when the population size is _____.

- A. 500 or less
- B. 100 or less
- C. 1 000 or less
- D. none of the above

18. Which of the following is necessary in obtaining consent?

- A. a description of the statistical analyses that will be carried out
- B. a description of the purpose of the research
- C. a description of the reliability and validity of test instruments (tools)
- D. a list of publications that the researcher has had in the last ten years

19. What is the key defining characteristic of experimental research?

- A. extraneous variables are never present
- B. A positive correlation usually exists
- C. A negative correlation usually exists
- D. Manipulation of the independent variable

20. A negative correlation is present when _____.

- A. two variables move in the same direction
- B. two variables move in the opposite direction
- C. one variable goes up and down
- D. several variables never change

21. In research, something that does **NOT** “vary” is called a _____.

- A. variable
- B. method
- C. constant
- D. control group

22. In a study, if you have a large effect, you need a _____ sample.

- A. small
- B. large
- C. medium
- D. moderate

23. Which of the following can be best described as a nominal variable?

- A. age
- B. annual income
- C. years in high school
- D. religion

24. The stratified sampling procedure is utilized when:

- A. the investigator has hypotheses about a subpopulation
- B. the investigator wants to study a homogenous subpopulation
- C. an easily accessible group is needed
- D. a list of sampling frame is available

25. Is the following qualitative research purpose statement “well stated” or “poorly stated”? “The focus of the present study was to explore distressing nurturing encounters of patients with caregivers and to ascertain the meanings that are engendered by such encounters. The study was conducted in one of the surgical units of a 374-bed district hospital.”

- A. it is well stated
- B. it is poorly

TOTAL 25 MARKS
