

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER DECEMBER 2014

COURSE CODE : GNS 310

COURSE TITLE : RESEARCH METHODS

TOTAL MARKS : SEVENTY-FIVE (75)

DURATION : TWO (2) HOURS

No. of STUDENTS : FORTY- five (45)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. THE PAPER HAS FOUR QUESTIONS
2. INSTRUCTIONS ARE GIVEN AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH QUESTION
3. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS
4. HANDWRITING MUST BE LEGIBLE
5. FIGURES IN BRACKETS INDICATE MARKS ALLOCATED PER QUESTION OR A PART OF THE QUESTION

DO NOT OPEN THE EXAMINATION PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION IS GIVEN BY THE INVIGILATOR

QUESTION 1

Situation A

Jona is a third year nursing student who has successfully completed the course Research Methods and formulated a research title for the proposal he intends to develop in the next semester. The intended study is entitled: **SELF-CONCEPT OF HIV POSITIVE SCHOOL-GOING ADOLESCENTS IN THE MANZINI REGION**. The purpose of the study is to describe how school-going adolescents who are HIV positive in the Manzini region perceive themselves.

Questions 1.1 – 1.3 are guided and related to Situation A

- 1.1 Identify the following information from the research title: The:
 - 1.1.1 domain area of inquiry (1)
 - 1.1.2 variable of interest to the researcher (2)
 - 1.1.3 setting of the study (1)
 - 1.1.4 population of the study. (1)
- 1.2 Describe any two sources whence (from where) the idea of conducting such a study might have emanated. (4)
- 1.3 Describe whence (from where) the participants will be recruited? (2)
- 1.4 Explain how the researcher will deal with the ethical aspect of this study. (2)
- 1.5 Discuss the four phases of the process of this research.(12)

[25 points]

QUESTION 2

Read the following text (in figure 1) that represents an informed consent for one study. Thereafter critique the document.

I am carrying out this study as part of my study programme which requires that I carry out a research in an area of concern to me. I am very much interested in the area of HIV and AIDS since it is one health problem that also has psycho-social challenges.

You are being invited to participate in this study that seeks to describe how people like you cope with being sole bread winners who are HIV positive and taking antiretroviral drugs.

I will ask you a few questions. This should take something like 30 minutes or so depending on how much information you have and are willing to share with me.

Do you agree or not?

Thank you for accepting to participate in this study.

Figure The novice researcher's informed consent document

2.1 Describe any

2.1.1 two positive points that have been documented in the document. (4)

2.1.2 five important components (principles, concepts) that have been left out in this document when they ought to be included. (10)

2.2 Give an outline of the following documents that play an important role in research ethics:

2.2.1 The Nuremberg Code (2)

2.2.2 The Helsinki Declaration (3)

2.3 Which three groups of people cannot give their own consent form? (3) Motivate your answers (3).

[25 points]

QUESTION 3

Data analysis is a very important activity in the research process.

3.1 To which phase of the research process does data analysis belong? (1)

Instruction: Study the contents of Table 1:

Variables	n	Percentage (%)
Age groups (years)		
Below 18	1	2
19 - 21	25	50
22 - 24	15	30
25 - 27	5	10
28 - 30	3	6
31 and above	1	2
Gender		
Female	34	68
Male	16	32
Marital status		
Single	35	70
Married	10	20
Divorced	5	10
Educational level		

Primary school		
Grades 1 – 3	3	6
Grades 4 – 6	8	16
Grade 7	10	20
Secondary school		
Form 1 – 2	20	40
Form 3	6	12
Form 4 – 5	3	6
Religious affiliation		
Church of Zion	25	50
Roman Catholic	10	20
Methodist Church	8	16
Traditional Church	5	10
None	2	4
Salary (Emalangenzi)		
0 – 199	6	12
200 – 299	10	20
300 – 399	21	42
400 – 499	8	16
500	5	10

3.2 Write down any four variables that were of interest in this study and are displayed in

Table 1. (1/2x4=2)

3.3 Give a summary of the participants from the contents of Table 1. (12)

[15 POINTS]

QUESTION 4

INSTRUCTION: write the most appropriate answer in your answer book. Example: 4.1 = d,

4.2 = a, and so forth.

4.1 In an experimental design the group that is manipulated is called the _____ group.

- control
- experimental
- basic
- comparison.

4.2 Reasoning that emanates from an observed phenomenon is termed _____ thinking.

- a. logical
- b. deductive
- c. inductive
- d. intuition

4.3 The following are characteristic of traditional scientific inquiry EXCEPT:

- a. randomization
- b. manipulation
- c. control
- d. scientific honesty.

4.4 If a study uses snowball technique to recruit its participants, it is most likely to be _____ in approach.

- a. quantitative
- b. qualitative
- c. experimental
- d. quasi experimental.

4.5 The sample of a study that is quantitatively designed is relatively:

- a. small
- b. strong
- c. large
- d. in-deep.

4.6 The variables age, educational attainment and gender are classified under:

- a. ordinal scales
- b. interval scales
- c. ratio scales

d. nominal scales.

4.7 Research that investigates the relationship between two variables requires data that are

- a. non numerical
- b. numerical
- c. thematic
- d. a and c.

4.8 When utilizing the qualitative approach, in-depth literature review is conducted:

- a. after collecting the data
- b. before collecting the data
- c. after collecting and analyzing the data.
- d. after writing the research report.

4.9 The following are contents of a research proposal EXCEPT:

- a. introduction and background
- b. methodology
- c. findings
- d. references.

4.10 A cross sectional study is one in which the data are collected

- a. at two points in time of conducting that study.
- b. only at one point in time
- c. from records of the past
- d. now and into the future.

[10 POINTS]