

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL NURSING SCIENCE  
MAIN EXAMINATION  
DECEMBER 2016

COURSE CODE : GNS 310  
COURSE TITLE : RESEARCH METHODS  
TOTAL MARKS : SEVENTY-FIVE (75)  
DURATION : TWO (2) HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. THE PAPER HAS FOUR QUESTIONS
2. INSTRUCTIONS FOR EACH QUESTION ARE GIVEN AT THE BEGINNING
3. ALL FOUR QUESTIONS ARE TO BE ANSWERED
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

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Read the given situation and thereafter
2. Answer as follows: For each question, select the most appropriate answer and utilizing **UPPERCASE** write it in your answer booklet thus: 1.1 =A, 1.2 =D, and so forth.

### Situation

A nurse researcher is planning to conduct research in one public hospital. He has developed a proposal whose title reads: **NURSING STUDENTS' BEHAVIOUR WHILE ASSIGNED FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE IN MALE AND FEMEALE MEDICAL SURICAL WARDS IN ONE PUBLIC HOSPITAL.** The intended study seeks to give an accurate portrayal of the phenomenon of interest to this nurse researcher. The data are going to be collected through structured observations and only once on one chosen day when the nursing students will be on clinical practice. Descriptive statistics will be utilized to analyze the data whose findings will be presented graphically and also through tables and summaries.

**NB:** Questions 1.1 through 1.20 are related to the above situation. You may now answer the questions.

- 1.1 From where might the research problem have emanated? From
  - a. observing nursing students while assigned to the hospital \
  - b. listening to patients' perceptions about nursing students on clinical practice
  - c. reading nursing journal articles
  - d. all the above
- 1.2 What type of research will this be?
  - a. a case study
  - b. applied research
  - c. basic research
  - d. an epidemiological study
- 1.3 Which one of the following is the phenomenon of interest to this researcher?
  - a. patients in medical-surgical wards
  - b. nursing students
  - c. nursing student's behaviour
  - d. nursing students and patient interactions
- 1.4 Which is/are the variable/variables that the researcher intends to measure? .
  - a. behaviour
  - b. Medical-surgical wards
  - c. patients
  - d. clinical experience

- 1.5 Who will be the source of the data to be collected?
- ward sisters
  - patients
  - nursing students
  - all the above
- 1.6 What type of sample will be used in order to collect the needed data?.
- random
  - convenience
  - purposive
  - snowball
- 1.7 Which research approach will be used for this study?
- experimental approach
  - quasi experimental approach
  - quantitative approach
  - qualitative approach
- 1.8 The sampling method for the research approach you have indicated in answer 1.7 is generally referred to as
- probability
  - snowball
  - purposive
  - non-probability
- 1.9 Findings from the analyzed data are going to be generalized to
- the entire population of the study
  - all the patients in that hospital
  - the sample of the study only
  - none of the above
- 1.10 The purpose of descriptive studies is usually set at level \_\_\_\_\_ of research
- one
  - two
  - three
  - four
- 1.12 Which one of the following descriptive statistics will be used to analyze the data?
- range
  - mean
  - percentage
  - all the above
- 1.13 Which of the following is/are likely to influence the data quality?
- The ward environment
  - the researcher
  - study participants
  - all the above

- 1.14 Guided by the selected research approach (in answer 1.7), literature review will be conducted
- after data collection
  - before data collection
  - after data collection and analysis
  - during carrying out the pilot study
- 1.15 Which is the research setting for this study?
- the training institutions
  - the public hospital
  - medical-surgical wards
  - all the above .
- 1.16 One of the following effects is a disadvantage of using structured research Instruments?..
- hollow effect
  - hallo effect
  - halo effect
  - halls . effect
- 1.17 Permission to carry out the study at the hospital will be requested from the
- Hospital Administrator
  - National Health Research Review Board
  - Unit Matron
  - Sisters-in-charge of the wards
- 1.18 Research rigour will be ensured through
- reliability
  - validity
  - trustworthiness.
  - all the above
- 1.19 Who is/are likely to benefit from the study findings?
- nurse researchers
  - nurse practitioners
  - nurse educators
  - all the
- 1.20 Research whose data are collected at one point in time are called \_\_\_\_\_ studies
- descriptive
  - correlational
  - cross sectional
  - epidemiological

- 1.21 When a study 'seeks to give an accurate portrayal of the research problem' it is said to be \_\_\_\_\_ in design.
- correlational
  - cross sectional
  - descriptive
  - epidemiological
- 1.22 To which audience will the study findings be presented?
- nurses in hospitals
  - nurse educators
  - regional and international research community
  - all the above
- 1.23 Informed consent for the study will be sought and obtained from the
- nursing students
  - training institutions
  - National Health Research Review Board
  - Senior Medical Officer
- 1.24 Who is the population of the intended study?
- nursing students
  - all patients in that public hospital
  - all admitted patients in medical-surgical wards
  - all the above
- 1.25 The following are advantages of using a structured research instrument EXCEPT
- Uniformity
  - Standardization
  - Objectivity
  - Flexibility

[25 points]

## QUESTION 2

### INSTRUCTION:

1. Choose the correct answer and write in your answer booklet its first letter in **UPPERCASE** thus: 2.1 = T, 2.2= F and so forth

2.1 Phenomenology is suitable for gaining insight into phenomena of interest.

- True
- False

2.2 Random sampling is associated with probability sampling.

- True
- False

- 2.3 Deductive reasoning is thinking whose direction is from a specific observation to a general principle.
- a. True
  - b. False.
- 2.4 Questionnaires are the especially suited to explore the meaning of phenomena.
- a. True
  - b. False
- 2.5 Personal interviews generally yield volumes of in-depth information.
- a. True
  - b. False
- 2.6 Correlational research helps to investigate relationships among selected variables.
- a. True
  - b. False
- 2.7 A needs assessment is most appropriate for investigating the competence level of subordinates.
- a. True
  - b. False
- 2.8 Human hair is an attribute variable.
- a. True
  - b. False
- 2.9 Gender is an example of a dichotomous variable.
- a. True
  - b. False
- 2.10 One of the major purposes of literature review is to ascertain what has already been done in the research area that is related to the researcher's identified area of investigation
- a. True
  - b. False
- 2.11 The depth of literature review refers to the quantity and quality of articles that the researcher examines.
- a. True
  - b. False
- 2.12 Secondary sources of data are preferred to primary ones when conducting Literature review.
- a. True
  - b. False

- 2.13 The statement 'Younger nursing students are less patient with elderly patients is a reflection of a directional hypothesis.
- True
  - False
- 2.14 A census is a type of survey.
- True
  - False
- 2.15 Data at interval scale measurement may not be subjected to statistical tests.
- True
  - False

[15 points]

### QUESTION 3

#### INSTRUCTION:

- Answer as directed by each question.

Evidence-based nursing practice is the way to go in health care facilities in Swaziland and the world over, particularly in this 21<sup>st</sup> century.

3.1 Define evidence-based practice (3)

3.2 Describe the three elements that form the process of evidence-based nursing practice (6)

3.3 Describe three benefits of EBP in nursing. (6)

[15 points]

### QUESTION 4

#### INSTRUCTION:

- Write the most appropriate answer in your answer booklet.
- Each statement carries one mark
- Example of how to answer

	STATEMENT
4.1	has the characteristics of interest to the researcher
4.22	Is reasoning that has no scientific base

In your answer booklet write:

4.1 = *population of the study*

4.2 = *intuition*

	STATEMENT
4.1	this is a subset of the study population
4.2	such data can only be categorized but not rank ordered
4.3	it is known as a trial run or a 'dummy' study
4.4	according to this type of research approach extensive literature review is performed before implementing the actual study
4.5	this type of research is carried out in order to find solutions to patients' health-related problems
4.6	it gives a quick overview of the study and its findings so that the researcher who is conducting literature review will decide whether or not that study is relevant to his/her research problem and therefore read the entire article if it is or leave it if it is not related to his/her research problem
4.7	it seeks to inform the reader what the study intends to do
4.8	is a test to ensure that the research instrument measures what it is supposed to measure.
4.9	<b>'NO PROBLEM, NO RESEARCH!' – is a standard that helps the researcher to know whether or not to conduct research</b>
4.10	this type of sample is required in order for findings to be generalizable to the population of the study
4.11	issuing such is the responsibility of the National Health Research Review Board in Swaziland so that human participants are protected from any harm through research
4.12	this principle helps to safeguard participants' right to fair treatment
4.13	during this phase the researcher conceptualizes and contextualizes the research problem for the reader to understand the nature of the identified problem and the gap that needs to be discovered
4.14	this type of sample is used when participants are readily available for data collection
4.15	this piece of document gives evidence that participants were not coerced and took part in the study voluntarily
4.16	though this type of reasoning may be used and is quite common, it is not scientific
4.17	according to this research design, data are collected only once at one point in time



4.18	it is an exercise that is undertaken to find out more about what research has been carried out in the area relevant to the researcher's own identified research problem area
4.19	this is the title of the chapter in which the researcher describes how the study was carried out in order to answer the main research question
4.20	this written document usually gives an overview of the research problem and also how the researcher intends to carry out the main study

**[20 points]**