

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND
LITERATURE**

MAIN EXAMINATION

COURSE TITLE: RESEARCH METHODS

COURSE CODE: ENG 307

TIME: 2 HRS

Instructions

Answer part one and two other questions in part two

Part 1

QUESTION 1: COMPULSORY

Use the multiple answer sheet with which you have been provided to answer the following questions

1. Which of the following lists is a set of variables?
 - A. male, Protestant, year in college
 - B. architect, engineer, lawyer
 - C. income, Democrat, age
 - D. religious affiliation, gender, years of schooling
2. Which of the following would be an example of *applied research*?
 - A. research to satisfy intellectual curiosity
 - B. research on a problem in need of improvement
 - C. research on whom citizens decide to vote for
 - D. research for theoretical purposes
3. What does it mean when it is said scientific knowledge is *transmissible*?
 - A. it means the data was collected by a team of researchers
 - B. it means that scientific knowledge is non-normative
 - C. it means that the research can be analyzed and replicated
 - D. it means that original incorrect results can be made to correct themselves
4. Which building block of research generally refers to how scientific knowledge is *sharpened* or made more *precise*?
 - A. induction
 - B. hypothesis
 - C. concept
 - D. variable
5. Which of the following is the textbook definition of a *hypothesis*?
 - A. a statement proposing the relationship between two or more concepts
 - B. a statement proposing the relationship between two or more variables
 - C. a statement consisting of an educated guess about some phenomenon
 - D. a statement that is empirically specific about some phenomenon
6. Researchable questions are necessarily narrow and specific.
 - A. True
 - B. False
7. Which of the following is the worst statement of a hypothesis?
 - A. The greater the social distance between victim and criminal, the more severe the punishment
 - B. Women tend to receive less pay than men for the same work
 - C. Men are usually less religious than women
 - D. Happiness is related to intelligence
8. It is hypothesized that among the elderly, there is a relationship between marital status and happiness. In this hypothesis, happiness is a (n) _____ variable and marital status is a (n) _____ variable while age is a(n) _____ variable.

- A. independent, dependent, control
 - B. independent, control, dependent
 - C. dependent, independent, control
 - D. dependent, control, independent
9. The researcher must precisely formulate the null hypothesis whenever doing research.
- A. True
 - B. False *
10. What does a *null* hypothesis usually do?
- A. make an uneducated guess about the nature or direction of a relationship
 - B. state that there is an indirect relationship between the variables
 - C. suggest an inverse relationship between the variables
 - D. posit the absence of a relationship between the variables
11. It is hypothesized that among the elderly, there is a relationship between marital status and happiness. In this hypothesis, happiness is a(n) _____ variable and marital status is a(n) _____ variable while age is a(n) _____ variable.
- A. independent, dependent, control
 - B. independent, control, dependent
 - C. dependent, independent, control
 - D. dependent, control, independent
12. If older people are less likely to attend church than younger people, the relationship between age and church attendance is:
- A. positive
 - B. negative
 - C. curvilinear
 - D. symmetric
13. Which of the following is the best statement of a hypothesis?
- A. Social class is related to party affiliation
 - B. Among the elderly, marital status is related to happiness
 - C. Women are more likely to oppose pornography than men
 - D. Political conservatives support authoritarian leaders
14. What would be a minimally adequate sample size for a city with a population of 60,000?
- A. 1%
 - B. 5%
 - C. 10%
 - D. 15%
15. Reliability is mostly a matter of _____, while validity is mostly about _____.
- A. consistency; accuracy
 - B. accuracy; consistency
 - C. similarity; dissimilarity
 - D. similarity; consistency
16. What is the most appropriate research design to study, for example, how effective mandatory seat belt laws have been in reducing automobile accident deaths?
- A. cross sectional

- B. factorial
 - C. experimental
 - D. time series
17. In general, the larger the sample, the smaller the:
- A. disproportionality
 - B. sampling proportion
 - C. size of the strata
 - D. sampling error
18. Which of the following is NOT considered an inherent weakness of survey research?
- A. reactivity
 - B. nonresponse rate
 - C. measurement error
 - D. exploration rather than explanation
19. An independent variable in one study may be a dependent variable in another study.
- A. True
 - B. False
20. What type of hypothesis proposes a relationship between two variables without specifying the nature of that relationship?
- A. directional
 - B. correlative
 - C. causal
 - D. logarithmic

Part 11

QUESTION 2

A colleague of yours has received back from the supervisor a questionnaire, with comments, created for their research. The comment is "*this is depressingly poor. I doubt you understood a word of what was discussed in class.. you have not read and understood anything*". Your colleague is very upset and thinks this supervisor has a vendetta against them. Look at the work she has designed and comment on what you think justifies the supervisor's comment about your colleague's work.

Objectives of the study

1. *to document the number of people who are HIV positive*
2. *to document the number of students who are HIV negative*

Questionnaire

1. *Answer all the question. Please Tell us your name _____*
- a) *What is HIV/AIDS?*

- b) Male/Female (please tick as appropriate
- c) Age : _____
- d) When last did you take an HIV test? _____
- e) What were the results? Negative _____ Positive _____
- f) How many partners have you got?
- g) Do you know their HIV status and when did they tell you? After you asked or voluntarily? (20)

QUESTION 3

Discuss the steps that could be taken to ensure that responses to surveys are representative of the views of the intended population. (20)

QUESTION 4

'No text is the only accurate, true, unbiased, realistic representation of any part of the world; there are always alternative representations that are equally accurate, true, unbiased and realistic.' (McKee, 2003)

Discuss the issues that you need to consider when using documentary sources. (20)

QUESTION 5

Read the following problem statements. They are clearly jumbled. Re-arranged the sentences in each paragraph so that they flow and read better than is presently the case.

- a. Taken from Antonio, A. I., Chang, M. J., Hakuta, K., Kenny, D. A., Levin, S., & Milem, J. F. (2004). Effects of racial diversity on complex thinking in college. *Psychological science*, 15(8), 507-510.

Previous research has found that racially diverse educational environments are associated with positive intellectual and social outcomes for college students (Astin, 1993; Chang, 1999; Gurin, 1999; Smith & Associates, 1997). No study to date has randomly assigned students to conditions of racial diversity and directly examined cognitive outcomes. (p. 507) The existing evidence, however, is based largely on quasi-experimental or correlational designs using self-report data Racial diversity in the student body is linked to the likelihood that a student will interact with someone of a different race or ethnicity and engage in discussions of racial or ethnic issues. Frequent interaction across racial lines and discussion of racial and ethnic issues positively predicts student retention, intellectual and social self-concept, and overall satisfaction with college (Gurin, 1999; Smith & Associates, 1997)..

b. Taken from Umbach, P. D. (2005). Equity in the Academic Labor Market: An Analysis of Academic Disciplines. Excerpt from a grant proposal grant awarded by the Association for Institutional Research and National Center for Educational Statistics.

The small number of women and people of color in particular disciplines, such as science and engineering, is even more striking. Although affirmative action has been portrayed as a way form increasing the number of faculty of color and women faculty in higher education, it has done little to substantially increase their representation in the academe (Aguirre, 2000; Higgerson & Higgerson, 1991; Johnsrud & Sadao, 1998). In fact, even with the rapid increases in diversity in America, the racial diversity of faculty changed very little in the last 30 years (Perna, 2001; Trower & Chait, 2002). Additionally, while women outnumber men among undergraduates, women still are under-represented in the faculty ranks. (20)

QUESTION 6

You are interested in studying the difficulty students have in studying English Language and Literature in Swaziland.

- (a) State the research problem for this study and formulate five research questions, accordingly. (10 marks)
- (b) Give the research method you would use for this study and justify it. (5 marks)
- (c) Discuss the sampling procedure suitable for this kind of research. (5marks)