UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

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Research in Social Sciences

Duration 2 Hours

100 Marks

EXAMINERS :

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SECOND DR NC MTHEMBU

Closed book examination

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This paper comprises 20 pages. Pocket calculators are not required for this exam.

Please complete the attendance register on the back page, tear it off and hand it to the invigilator.

VERY IMPORTANT

1. You are about to answer **60** multiple-choice questions If you are sure of the answer to an item, mark it as explained in the instructions. If you are not sure of the answer, you can either try to answer or omit the item:
   (a) if you answer correctly, you will receive a mark, and
   (b) If you answer incorrectly, you will not receive a mark Since there is no penalty for wrong answers, you should try to answer every item in order to obtain the highest possible score

2. Read the instructions on the examination mark-reading sheet and follow these instructions carefully. After completing the examination, you must hand in the following
   (a) one mark-reading sheet; and
   (b) **THIS EXAMINATION PAPER.**

Ensure that you have written the following on the mark-reading sheet:

- your **student number**
- the module code – **RSC2601**
- the unique paper number **497064**

QUESTION 1

A person of high academic standing is given the task by the local government to investigate the best ways of ensuring participation of people living in a small town in an agricultural development project. Because of her high status, she speaks with authority.

The research results obtained by this person must be ...

(1) accepted unquestioningly because of the high academic standing of the researcher
(2) rejected because authority is not a valid way to gain knowledge.
(3) rejected because participation is a form of common sense knowledge
(4) accepted if it withstands critical scrutiny

QUESTION 2

A boy convinces his family members that a strange cat visiting their home daily is a sign of a tragedy that is about to happen.

This is an example of ...

(1) authority
(2) mysticism.
(3) common sense
(4) overgeneralisation

QUESTION 3

Read the following excerpt and identify the approach to social sciences that it best reflects.

In her research on hostel dwellers, Ramphele (1990:3) emphasises:
"the importance attached to empowering the hostel dwellers, [and] a participatory research approach as an appropriate strategy to achieve the set goals" (Ramphele, M. 1990. Participatory research – the myths and realities. *Social Dynamics* 16(2):3).

(1) positivism
(2) interpretivism
(3) critical approach
(4) postmodernism
(5) feminist research

QUESTION 4

Which of the following are examples of interpretative explanations?

(a) In Western marriage ceremonies, the exchange of rings symbolises an exclusive and mutual attachment.
(b) Patterns of reciprocal exchange between families make sense if we view them in terms of the wider kinship network.
(c) People become aggressive when their attempts to reach their goals are frustrated.
(d) Any explanation that emphasises the impact of the placement of an object in a larger whole
(e) Any explanation that emphasises the impact of the meaning that actors attach to their actions

(1) (a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
(2) (a) (b) (d)
(3) (a) (c) (e)
(4) (b) (d)
(5) (a) (e)

QUESTION 5

A stokvel (a rotating savings and credit association) is a social entity separate from its individual members.

This is a/an ...

(1) hypothetical statement.
(2) ontological statement.
(3) epistemological statement.
(4) methodological statement
(5) definitional statement.

QUESTION 6

Which of the following statements does NOT describe how social researchers gain knowledge of social reality?

(1) Social phenomena exist in their own right, independent of the observer or researcher
(2) Researchers must study social phenomena in a neutral, value-free, detached and systematic way
(3) Social researchers have to be sensitive to how their interviewees and research participants construct and attach meaning to their situation.
(4) Social scientists should rely on theory in order to make sense of the hidden dynamics of social reality.

QUESTION 7

Choose the correct options.

In social science research, concepts ...

(a) never change their meaning
(b) are related to theory
(c) are used to describe a phenomenon.
(d) are used to identify a phenomenon
(e) are concrete

(1) (a) (b) (c)
(2) (b) (c) (d)
(3) (c) (d) (e)
(4) (a) (b) (c) (d)
(5) (a) (b) (d) (e)

QUESTION 8

Which two of the following statements are true?

(a) Theory inductively guides research
(b) Research deductively builds theory
(c) Theory deductively guides research
(d) Research inductively builds theory.

(1) (a) (b)
(2) (b) (c)
(3) (c) (d)
(4) (a) (c)
(5) (b) (d)

QUESTION 9

Which of the following statements correctly summarise(s) the significance of concepts in social research?

Concepts ...

(a) provide explanations of phenomena
(b) suggest ways of measuring things.
(c) often suggest new areas of reality to research.
(d) provide a precise name for a phenomenon

(1) (c) (d)
(2) (a) (b) (c) (d)
(3) (a) (b)
(4) (a)
(5) (d)

QUESTION 10

Which of the following statements about theory is/are correct?

Theory...

(a) helps to defocus our research, as it opens the researcher up to new insights.
(b) helps us decide what information is relevant to solve a particular research problem
(c) provides new explanations for things by re-arranging empirical results.
(d) makes things that were previously visible, invisible
(e) provides an interpretation of research results

(1) (a) (b) (d)
(2) (a) (b) (e)
(3) (d)
(4) (e)
(5) (b) (c) (e)

QUESTION 11

Which of the following statements are correct in terms of the choice of a research topic?

(a) A topic is often selected because the researcher is financially interested in solving a particular social problem.
(b) The social and scientific significance of the issue/problem can influence ones' choice of topic.
(c) Even positivist social scientists acknowledge that personal interest, commitment and motivation are key in influencing the choice of topic
(d) The theory doesn't necessarily need to be connected to the chosen research topic.

(1) (a) (b) (c)
(2) (a) (d)
(3) (b) (c)
(4) (b) (c) (d)

QUESTION 12

Which of the following are examples of quantitative variables?

(a) Level of education
(b) Income
(c) Ethnic affiliation
(d) Mass
(e) Place of residence

(1) (a) (b) (d)
(2) (c) (e)
(3) (c) (d) (e)
(4) (b) (d)

QUESTION 13

Which of the following types of research is less applicable in qualitative research? Research that ...

(1) makes in-depth inquiries into complexities and processes.
(2) can be done by means of an experiment.
(3) tries to explore why the current policy and practice do not work
(4) investigates an unknown phenomenon

QUESTION 14

If an investigation is repeated and the results are similar, then the research is ...

(1) valid
(2) reliable
(3) flexible.
(4) real

QUESTION 15

A characteristic of ... research is that the findings accept or reject theoretical propositions.

(1) quantitative
(2) qualitative
(3) mixed methods
(4) action

QUESTION 16

A researcher compiles one questionnaire for a research study that consists of 30 close ended questions and two (2) open ended questions.

This approach is called ...

(1) multiple methods research.
(2) qualitative research.
(3) quantitative research
(4) sequential mixed methods research

QUESTION 17

The South African Broadcasting Corporation's (SABC) research department draws a representative sample of television licence holders. They send a questionnaire to the people in this group to find out which television programmes they prefer to watch in order to plan the marketing strategy to increase viewer numbers.

The above-mentioned is an example of ... research.

(1) explanatory
(2) longitudinal
(3) fundamental
(4) applied

QUESTION 18

A researcher aims to conduct research with the purpose of gaining more insight into why HIV positive people prefer to disclose, or not disclose, their HIV status.
This will be ... research.

(1) correlational
(2) longitudinal
(3) explanatory
(4) experimental

QUESTION 19

Which one of the following factors will NOT influence your decision as a researcher to obtain substitute consent to conduct a survey, instead of direct consent?

(1) Respondents' age
(2) Drawing a nonprobability sample
(3) Respondents' cognitive capacity.
(4) Respondents' emotional capacity.

QUESTION 20

Which of the following behavioural norms would mainly regulate your response, from an ethical point of view, to the following request?

> **A local newspaper is conducting research for an in-depth story about the emotional impact of outcomes based education. The reporter requests you, as a teacher, to forward a detailed record of your learners' reactions to specific outcomes-based educational tasks, over a period of nine months.**

(1) respect for privacy
(2) organised skepticism
(3) disinterestedness
(4) universalism

QUESTION 21

Which behavioural norm or principle is being described in this quotation?

> **"The norm of ... has been hono[u]red for a given project when all research, including its means, ends, motives and consequences can be evaluated according to predetermined standards set by a scholarly community" (Smith 1988:284).**

(1) respect
(2) disinterestedness
(3) universalism
(4) communality

QUESTION 22

Which of the following statements are correct?

(a) Obtaining substitute consent is only necessary when the research involved children.
(b) Consent is obtained from a person that is not directly involved in the research.
(c) Obtaining consent is an issue of respect, but has no legal implications.
(d) Consent should be given voluntarily by a person who is able to do so and must be based on correct information.
(e) An example of consent is a person agreeing to participate in a focus group interview

(1) (a) (b) (c)
(2) (c) (d) (e)
(3) (b) (d) (e)
(4) (a) (b) (d)

QUESTION 23

Which of the following is NOT a behavioural norm in research?

(1) universalism
(2) honesty
(3) disinterestedness
(4) conformity

QUESTION 24

What should the researcher consider before conducting research?

(a) Is it feasible to research the topic?
(b) Can the research yield scientific knowledge?
(c) Can it serve a useful function?
(d) Is the research data accessible?
(e) Does the researcher have the skills required to conduct the research?

(1) (a) (b) (c)
(2) (a) (b) (d) (e)
(3) (b) (c) (d) (e)
(4) All of the above.

QUESTION 25

What research design is described in this scenario?

A researcher working for an advertising company wants to investigate whether people are more inclined to buy a new product when they have been informed of the advantages of the product, than before being informed. She selects a sample and measures their willingness to buy the product by means of a questionnaire. She then randomly assigns each person to an experimental group (who receives more information on the product) and a control group (who receives no additional information on the product). After the information session, she again measures the willingness of the two groups to buy the product.

This is an example of a ... design.

(1) pre-experimental
(2) posttest only control group
(3) quasi-experimental
(4) pretest-posttest control group

QUESTION 26

**To what does history as a threat to the internal validity of a study refer?
The effect on the dependent variable of ...**

(1) an event that occurred before the study started.
(2) an uncontrolled event that occurred during the study
(3) the treatment administered during the study.
(4) the independent variable in the study

QUESTION 27

A research design involving an experimental and a control group, in which subjects are assigned to groups by tossing a coin, is a(n) ... design.

(1) quasi-experimental
(2) pre-experimental
(3) non-experimental
(4) experimental

QUESTION 28

A group of ten (10) children are undergoing a course which is designed to improve their reading skills and which lasts for a period of six months. To investigate the effectiveness of the course, a researcher lets the children complete a reading comprehension test once a month.

This type of research design can be referred to as ...

(1) experimental.
(2) a survey
(3) flexible
(4) a time series

QUESTION 29

The range of situations, techniques and observations included in a qualitative research project is referred to as the ... of the research.

(1) design flexibility
(2) scope
(3) validity
(4) outcome

QUESTION 30

A student wants to explore the relationship between unemployment and the national crime rate. The research question is: *Does unemployment cause crime?* To do this research the student decides to use unstructured interviews.

The student must revisit the design of this study and make sure the design has ...

(1) flexibility
(2) coherence
(3) triangulation
(4) precision

QUESTION 31

The first 20 male and the first 20 female smokers entering a hall, are selected to participate in a research study.

This is an example of ... sampling.

(1) snowball
(2) quota
(3) purposive
(4) theoretical

QUESTION 32

A researcher studying leadership selects 30 business practitioners to investigate management practices.

Which of the following sampling techniques is applicable?

(1) quota
(2) systematic
(3) convenience
(4) purposive

QUESTION 33

A sample where the first house in a street is randomly selected, and thereafter every tenth house in that street is sampled, is called a ... sample.

(1) simple random
(2) systematic
(3) convenience
(4) snowball

QUESTION 34

Differences between population parameters and sampling statistics are called ...

(1) sampling error.
(2) testing effects.
(3) population error
(4) regression.

QUESTION 35

The list that a researcher can prepare to ensure that sampling can be done is called a ...

(1) checklist
(2) sampling list.
(3) sampling frame
(4) concept framework.

QUESTION 36

If the entire population is selected it is called ...

(1) a stratified sample
(2) a census.
(3) a sampling error.
(4) selection bias

QUESTION 37

These types of questions are included in a questionnaire so that some respondents are required to answer them whereas others are required to ignore them.

(1) ranking questions.
(2) contingency questions.
(3) filter questions.
(4) inventory questions.

QUESTION 38

The item below is to be used in a self-administered questionnaire. However, it contains a problem that should be avoided.

Four basic types of religious groups are recognised in society. **Do you also agree with this statement?**

The above-mentioned item is problematic because it ...

(1) is a double-barrelled statement
(2) contains loaded language
(3) is a negative item
(4) contains an incomplete question

QUESTION 39

Which level of measurement is being used in the following scenario?

> **A survey is done to determine which websites men visit (such as news), compared to women (such as health issues). In an electronic questionnaire, Internet users are asked to identify their gender (male versus female).**

The level of measurement being used is ...

(1) nominal
(2) ordinal.
(3) interval
(4) ratio.

QUESTION 40

By asking respondents whether they would vote for candidate A or B, you are applying the following level of measurement ...

(1) ratio
(2) interval
(3) nominal
(4) ordinal.

QUESTION 41

Read the following item from a self-administered questionnaire.

Outcomes-based educational strategies have resulted in learners becoming confused.

Select one of the following options that corresponds with your opinion of the above-mentioned statement:

Strongly agree	☐
Neutral	☐
Agree	☐
Disagree	☐

The above-mentioned item is problematic because ...

(1) the scale used in the item is incorrect
(2) the item contains a negative statement.
(3) reference is made to a vague agent or action
(4) the item contains a double-barrelled statement.

QUESTION 42

Which one of the following statements is correct?

(1) Unstructured interviews contain no specific questions and are always conducted face-to-face
(2) Structured interviews use a list of questions and statements similar to those used in questionnaires
(3) In-depth interviews are used to collect answers, opinions, motivations or emotions from a large population.
(4) Telephonic interviews usually yield a higher response rate than face-to-face interviews.

QUESTION 43

The value in a sample of scores that occurs with the greatest frequency is called the ...

(1) central tendency.
(2) mode
(3) median.
(4) mean.

QUESTION 44

Which measure(s) of central tendency is/are the smallest for the following set of data?

4 6 8 16 16

(1) mode
(2) median
(3) mean
(4) All three measures are equal

QUESTION 45

Which of the symbols below is conventionally used to indicate the variance of a sample of measurements?

(1) s^2
(2) $\overline{x}$
(3) r
(4) s

QUESTION 46

An appropriate descriptive statistic to calculate to determine the strength of the relationship between two variable is the ...

(1) standard deviation
(2) correlation coefficient
(3) variance
(4) mode

QUESTION 47

Which one of following measurements would you calculate to determine whether the frequency distribution of a specific variable is symmetrically distributed around the mean?

(1) median
(2) variance
(3) kurtosis
(4) skewness

QUESTION 48

The median in the following data set is ...

22 20 35 30 32 15

(1) 22
(2) 30
(3) 26
(4) 28

QUESTION 49

Which of the following are characteristics of qualitative data?

(a) It is based on the interpretation of individuals' subjective experiences.
(b) It can be mainly measured in a structured way
(c) Because it is not measured in a systematic way, it is not open to being coded.
(d) It provides a detailed textual description of a particular phenomenon.

(1) (b) (c)
(2) (c) (d)
(3) (a) (d)
(4) (a) (b) (d)
(5) (a) (b) (c) (d)

QUESTION 50

Data saturation means ...

(1) the researcher is tired
(2) the participants are tired.
(3) that there are no participants left to interview and/or to observe.
(4) that patterns and themes start recurring and no new information emerges.

QUESTION 51

Qualitative data analysis refers primarily to ...

(1) numerical processes of examining and interpreting of data in order to elicit meaning, gain understanding, and develop empirical knowledge.
(2) non-numerical processes of examining and interpreting of data in order to elicit meaning, gain understanding, and develop empirical knowledge

(3) the coding or assigning of certain numbers to the categories of a variable.
(4) the process of transforming raw data into a format that can be used in a computer analysis

QUESTION 52

From which of the following sources can the name of a category or a theme be deduced from?

Category and/or theme names can ...

(a) come from the pool of concepts that researchers already have from their discipline and professional reading
(b) be borrowed from the technical literature.
(c) be deduced from the words and/or phrases used by the participants themselves
(d) be deduced and formulated from the questions posed to the participants

(1) (b) (c)
(2) (a) (d)
(3) (a) (b) (c)
(4) (b) (c) (d)
(5) (a) (b) (c) (d)

QUESTION 53

A/an ... process entails moving from observations or data towards generalisations, hypotheses and theory.

(1) inductive
(2) deductive
(3) critical
(4) evaluative

QUESTION 54

Whilst analysing qualitative data the researcher cuts sections of coded text from different transcripts and places these in a designated file.

This activity prepares her to do the following:

(1) start coding the data.
(2) read more intensively.
(3) interpret findings
(4) organise her files
(5) count how many clippings she has

QUESTION 55

When writing a journal article, statistics and findings the research should be located in the ...

(1) abstract
(2) methodology
(3) literature review
(4) interpretation

QUESTION 56

The introduction to a research report should ...

(1) be written comprehensively, so that it is equal in length to other sections.
(2) comprise the problem, the method used and research findings.
(3) be written after the body of the report has been completed.
(4) contain an extensive review of the supporting theory.

QUESTION 57

Which of the following should be presented in the appendices to a research report?

(1) relevant quotations
(2) addresses of participants
(3) references
(4) calculations

QUESTION 58

The first step in writing any research report is to identify the intended reader.

This statement is ...

(1) true, because the organisation and style of the report depend on the target audience.
(2) true, because writing the report is not part of the research process, but it is still vital to a research project.
(3) false, because no matter who the audience, the primary goal in reporting research is accuracy
(4) false, because in the research report, specific attention should be paid to the methodology used

QUESTION 59

When evaluating a journal article it is important to consider whether ...

(1) the text takes the form of an inverted pyramid
(2) the data is correctly archived
(3) all sources are referenced correctly
(4) the article does not exceed 20 pages

QUESTION 60

In the case of quantitative research, the amount of detail to be included in a journal article ...

(1) needs to conform to scientific norms.
(2) must be sufficient so that the research can be replicated.
(3) can be restricted to the minimum.
(4) must be structured in a way that the reader can understand clearly.

[TOTAL: 100]

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