Course Code: IDE-BAE 304-2 (M) 2010

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ADULT EDUCATION) YEAR IV

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2010

TITLE OF PAPER: RESEARCH METHODS IN ADULT EDUCATION

COURSE CODE: IDE-BAE 304-2

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1.   ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS FROM SECTION A.

2.   ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B.

3.   ALL QUESTIONS IN SECTION B CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

SECTION A: COMPULSORY

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS. CHOOSE AN OPTION THAT BEST FITS YOUR ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS.

QUESTION 1

Generally speaking, the best time to begin the literature review associated with a specific research project is:

(a)   after the research problem has been clearly articulated
(b)   after data have been collected, but before they are analysed
(c)   based on personal preference; there is no single best time
(d)   prior to or during the formulation of the research problem   [2 marks]

QUESTION 2

The main purpose of the literature review is:

(a)   to acknowledge the work of others by listing their findings prior to proposing your own project
(b)   to show how your study is superior to other work done in the area
(c)   to publicly demonstrate your mastery of the research literature in your area
(d)   to show how your study is related to, and extends, other work in the area   [2 marks]

QUESTION 3

A well-structured literature review:

(a)   Contains highly detailed descriptions of each work chosen for inclusion in the review
(b)   begins with those studies most closely related to the research problem, then opens up to a broader perspective
(c)   begins with broad/general information, then narrows the focus to those studies most closely related to the research problem
(d)   contains general summaries of each work chosen for inclusion in the review
                                                                                        [2 marks]

QUESTION 4

A well-written literature review:

(a)   avoids evaluation or critique of the literature reviewed, so as not to bias the opinion of the reader
(b)   emphasises critique and synthesize of the work of others
(c)   avoids summarizing the work of others so that details of the original work are not lost in the reviewing process.
(d)   emphasises detailed reporting of each piece of research included in the literature review.
                                                                                        [2 marks]

QUESTION 5

In _____ research proposal(s) a specific research problem is clearly stated at the outset of the proposal.

(a)   both quantitative and qualitative
(b)   neither quantitative or qualitative
(c)   a quantitative
(d)   a qualitative   [2 marks]

QUESTION 6

_____ are characteristics of samples, while _____ are characteristics of populations.

(a)   concepts; statistics
(b)   parameters; statistics
(c)   statistics; parameters
(d)   parameters; estimations   [2 marks]

QUESTION 7

How are inferential statistics different from descriptive statistics?

(a)   Descriptive statistics allow drawing inferences from the sample to a target population
(b)   Descriptive statistics verify the accuracy of inferential statistics
(c)   Inferential statistics describe the results of a study
(d)   Inferential statistics allow drawing inferences from the sample to a target population
                                                                                                                [2 marks]

QUESTION 8

The measure(s) of central tendency that is/are appropriate for use with nominal data is/are

(a)   the median only
(b)   the mode only
(c)   the median and the mean
(d)   the median and the mode   [2 marks]

QUESTION 9

When summarising ordinal data, the _____ is the most useful measure of central tendency.

(a)   arithmetic mean
(b)   mode

(c)   median

(d)   geometric mean   [2 marks]

QUESTION 10

An examination was given to two sections of the same course. In Section 1 the exam mean was 51 and the standard deviation was 7. In Section 2 the exam mean was 51 and the standard deviation was 13. Which of the following conclusions is accurate?

(a)   Section 1 did better on the exam than Section 2

(b)   Section 1 scores were more variable than Section 2

(c)   Section 1 scores were less variable than Section 2

(d)   Section 1 did less well on the exam than Section 2   [2 marks]

SECTION B

QUESTION 11

(a)   It is important to define explicitly any term that might be misunderstood by someone reading the research proposal. If the proposal is being written chiefly for use and review by researchers, why is such a step necessary?   [20 marks]

QUESTION 12

Describe the benefits of conducting a thorough review of the existing literature prior to writing a research proposal.   [20 marks]

QUESTION 13

Using the deviation score method calculate the standard deviation for the following:
(Work out the mean to the nearest whole number)

X	f
15	1
16	3
17	5
18	8
19	4
20	3
21	2
22	1

[20 marks]

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QUESTION 14

(a)   In data collection what does the term 'triangulation'mean?   [5 marks]

(b)   What is mean by a unit of analysis?   [5 marks]

(c)   Briefly describe information that should appear in a good abstract.   [10 marks]