

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ADULT EDUCATION) YEAR 3
MAIN EXAMINATION, MAY 2015

TITLE: RESEARCH METHODS IN ADULT EDUCATION I

COURSE CODE: IDE-BAE317

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. THE PAPER CONTAINS TWO SECTIONS**
- 2. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS TWO FROM EACH SECTION.**
- 3. LANGUAGE ACCURACY WILL BE RECOGNISED**

THIS PAPER MUST NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE CHIEF INVIGILATOR

SECTION A

QUESTION 1

You have been engaged as the Principal Investigator (PI) by a consultancy company. One of the tasks that you are assigned is to conduct a study commissioned by UNESCO on the state and prospects of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Swaziland. The entire budget for this study is E100, 000. 00.

- a) Draw a research management plan indicating the key elements that the plan should contain.

20 marks

- b) Discuss the implications for failure to plan research making reference to (a) above.

5 marks

QUESTION 2

Compare and contrast the criteria used by qualitative and quantitative researchers to judge the quality of research.

25 marks

QUESTION 3

Sampling is one critical step in the research process and if due care is not taken a degree of error may emanate. Probability sampling is thought to reduce but not entirely eliminate sampling errors.

- a) Describe what probability sampling means (**2 marks**)
- b) List at least four probability sampling techniques that you know (**4 marks**)
- c) Choose one technique from the list above and do the following:
- i. Define the sampling technique (**2 marks**)
 - ii. Describe how you would use the technique to recruit a sample for your study (**12 marks**)
 - iii. What are the possible sampling errors that can occur if the researcher fails to adhere to the procedures (**5 marks**)

SECTION B

ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION

QUESTION 4

Discuss the role of a researcher as the data collection instrument in qualitative research especially in observational research and ethnography. Use relevant examples to substantiate your answer.

25 marks

QUESTION 5

Conducting a true experimental study is sometimes not possible in educational research hence researchers tend to use the quasi-experimental design.

- a) Describe this research design highlighting its characteristics **(6 marks)**
- b) In what circumstances can this design be applied **(2 marks)**
- c) Describe the sampling technique that you could use to draw a sample to use in a study that follows this research design **(10 marks)**
- d) Briefly describe how you would control for extraneous variables in your study? **(7 marks)**

QUESTION 6

A researcher must have an understanding and appreciation of research methods. Discuss using examples to support your answer.

25 marks

End of question paper