

BOTSWANA OPEN UNIVERSITY
BACHELOR OF COMMERCE
(HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS)
RESEARCH METHODS
RM 232
SESSIONAL EXAMINATION
Marks: 100
Duration - 3 hours

Instructions

1. This exam is based on material covered in the course module
2. This exam consists of **Three** sections: A, B and C
3. Begin each answer to a new question on a new page
4. Answer questions according to instructions given in each section
5. Write in grammatical English

SECTION A: MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS.

[20 marks]

Answer ALL questions. Each question carries ONE (1) mark.

Choose the best alternative answer.

1. Research is _____.
 - a) A purposeful, systematic activity.
 - b) Primarily conducted for purely academic purposes.
 - c) Primarily conducted to answer questions about practical issues.
 - d) A random, unplanned process of discovery

2. Which of the following is not a characteristic of a good research topic?
 - a) It can be investigated through the collection and analysis of data
 - b) It focuses on a philosophical or ethical issue
 - c) It is theoretically or practically significant.
 - d) It is ethical.

3. The statement of purpose in a research study should _____.
 - a) Identify the design of the study
 - b) Identify the intent or objective of the study
 - c) Specify the type of people to be used in the study
 - d) Describe the study

4. Which of the following might you include in an introductory letter to respondents?
 - a) An explanation of who you are and who is funding your research
 - b) An overview of what the research is about and how the data will be collected
 - c) A statement of their ethical rights to anonymity, confidentiality, etc.
 - d) All of the above

5. Which of the following ethical principles is being demonstrated when a researcher promotes accuracy, honesty, and truthfulness?
- a) Beneficence
 - b) Integrity
 - c) Responsibility
 - d) Justice
6. Mixed-method research refers to use of both _____.
- a) Experimental and correlational methods
 - b) Quantitative and qualitative methods
 - c) Description and intervention
 - d) Group and single subject designs
7. Which of the following is the first step in starting the research process?
- a) Searching sources of information to locate problem.
 - b) Survey of related literature
 - c) Identification of problem
 - d) Searching for solutions to the problem
8. The process of selecting a number of participants for a study in such a way that they represent the larger group from which they were selected is known as
- a) Research design
 - b) Sampling
 - c) Data collection
 - d) Random assignment.

9. The purpose of random sampling is to ensure _____.
- a) A sufficient sample size.
 - b) Clearly defined target population
 - c) Representativeness of the sample.
 - d) Representation of specific subgroups in the population
10. The goal of ethics in research is _____.
- a) To ensure that no one is harmed
 - b) To protect researchers from legal liability
 - c) To identify what behaviour is appropriate
 - d) To ensure research sponsors fulfill their legal obligations
11. Qualitative research is _____.
- a) Not as rigorous as quantitative research.
 - b) Primarily concerned with the collection and analysis of numerical data.
 - c) Primarily concerned with in-depth exploration of phenomena.
 - d) Primarily concerned with the quality of the research
11. The control of extraneous variables to ensure the treatment alone causes the effect is known as _____.
- a) Manipulation
 - b) Predictive validity.
 - c) Internal validity
 - d) External validity.

13. Ecological validity refers to the _____.
- a) Participants to whom the results generalize
 - b) Instruments used to measure the independent and dependent variables.
 - c) Internal validity of a study
 - d) Context to which results generalize
14. "Students taught first aid by programmed instruction will achieve at a higher level than those taught first aid by the traditional method." The independent variable in this hypothesis is _____.
- a) Students
 - b) Level of achievement
 - c) Programmed instruction
 - d) Method of instruction
15. In the example in question 14, the dependent variable is _____.
- a) Students
 - b) Level of achievement
 - c) Programmed instruction
 - d) Method of instruction
16. Statements or predictions that are tested by collecting and analyzing objective evidence are called _____.
- a) Assumptions
 - b) Indicators
 - c) Hypotheses
 - d) Premises

17. The degree to which narrative data collected accurately gauges what the researcher is trying to measure is the definition of _____.
- a) Informed consent.
 - b) Objectivity
 - c) Reliability.
 - d) Validity
18. Characteristics of persons or things that can assume different values are called _____.
- a) Distributions
 - b) Observations
 - c) Data
 - d) Variables
19. Which of the following questions is not useful when evaluating the Problem section in a research report?
- a) Is there a statement of the problem or a qualitative topic of study?
 - b) Does the problem or topic indicate a particular focus of study?
 - c) Is the problem "researchable"?
 - d) Are specific questions to be answered listed or specific hypotheses
20. Bias is defined as _____.
- a) The distortion of responses based on gender, ethnicity, race, or language.
 - b) A lack of validity.
 - c) A lack of reliability.
 - d) A poor interpretation of a student's score.

SECTION B Short answer questions. [30marks]

Answer all the questions from this section.

1. Distinguish between secondary data and primary data. **(4 marks)**
2. Distinguish between data cleaning and data analysis. **(4 marks)**

3. State four (4) general principles for constructing a questionnaire. **(4 marks)**
4. State 2 key considerations made in selecting a research problem /topic. **(2 marks)**

5. Identify any two (2) sources of research ideas. **(2marks)**
6. State 3 advantages and 3 disadvantages of using questionnaire as method of data collection. **(6 marks)**
7. Using appropriate examples differentiate between participation anonymity and participation confidentiality and indicate how you gather for them in data collection **(4 marks)**
8. Distinguish between deception and debriefing. **(4 marks)**

SECTION C: Essay-type questions. [50marks]

Answer two (2) questions in this section.

QUESTION 1

- 1) Discuss the six steps in Business research Methods process. **(25 marks)**

QUESTION 2

- a) Identify and describe two types of probability sampling Techniques. **(6 marks)**
- b) State and briefly explain at least (4) four factors you could consider while choosing a research topic or research problem? **(8 marks)**
- c) Explain three (3) purposes of literature review in research **(3marks)**
- d) State four (4) Strengths of observational data. **(8 marks)**

QUESTION 3

- a) Explain the relationship between internal validity and external validity. **(5marks)**
- b) Briefly discuss factors that may reduce internal validity of research study. **(20 marks)**

END OF THE PAPER!