

**BOTSWANA COLLEGE OF DISTANCE AND OPEN LEARNING**

**IN COLLABORATION WITH**

**ZIMBABWE OPEN UNIVERSITY**

**BACHELOR OF COMMERCE (Human Resources Management and**

**Industrial Relations)**

**RESEARCH METHODS**

**RM 232**

**SESSIONAL EXAMINATION**

**Marks – 100**

**Time allowed: 3 Hours**

---

**Instructions to candidates:**

1. The examination consists of **Three** sections: A, B and C
2. Begin each answer to a new question on a new page
3. Answer all the questions according to instructions given in each section
4. Write answers in the answer booklet provided
5. Write in grammatical English

**SECTION A: MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS.**

**[20 marks]**

1. Research is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) Searching again and again
  - b) Finding solution to any problem
  - c) Working in a scientific way to search for truth of any problem
  - d) None of the above
  
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. \_\_\_\_\_ is 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. \_\_\_\_\_ 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 to \_\_\_\_\_.
- a) Ensure that no one is harmed
  - b) Protect researchers from legal liability
  - c) Identify what behaviour is appropriate
  - d) Ensure research sponsors fulfil 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
12. 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 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 analysing 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]**

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 two (2) key considerations made in selecting a research problem /topic. **(2 marks)**
5. Name two (2) sources of research ideas. **(2marks)**
6. State three (3) advantages and disadvantages of using questionnaire as method of data collection. **(6 marks)**
7. Using relevant examples, differentiate between participation anonymity and participation confidentiality, and indicate how you cater for them in data collection. **(4 marks)**
8. Distinguish between deception and debriefing. **(4 marks)**

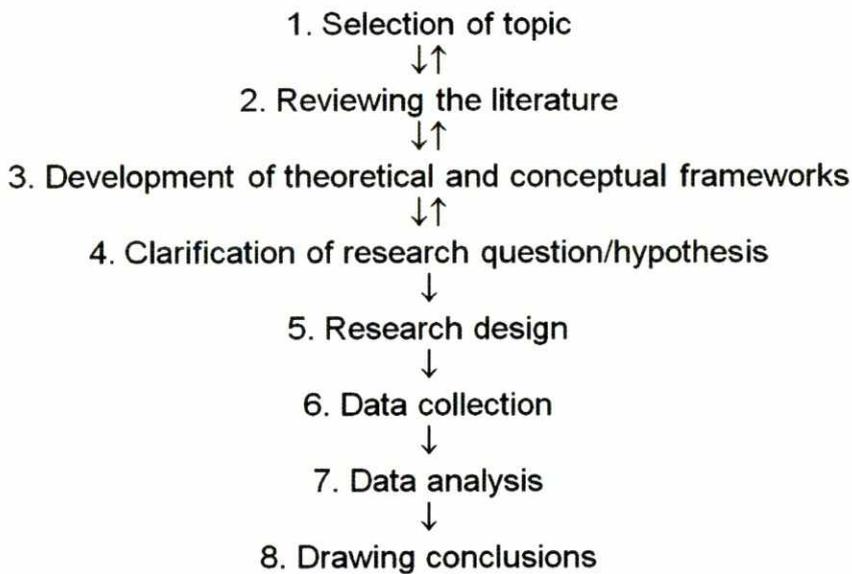
**SECTION C: Essay-type questions. [50marks]**

Answer any two (2) questions in this section.

**Question 1**

Discuss any six (6) steps in business research methods process as depicted in the flowchart below. **(25 marks)**

**THE RESEARCH PROCESS**



**QUESTION 2**

a) Identify and describe two (2) types of probability sampling Techniques. **(7 marks)**

b) State and briefly explain at least **two** (2) factors you could consider while choosing a research topic or research problem? **(4 marks)**

c) Explain three (3) purposes of literature review in research. **(6marks)**

d) State four (4) Strengths of observational data. **(8marks)**



**Question 3**

**(25 marks)**

- 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!***