



<b>FACULTY</b>	<b>EDUCATION &amp; HUMAN SCIENCES</b>		
<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>EDUCATION</b>		
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>APPLIED EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES</b>		
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH</b>		
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<b>DURATION</b>	<b>3 Hours</b>	<b>MARKS</b>	<b>100</b>

### **SECOND OPPORTUNITY EXAMINATION**

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**Moderator:** Prof James Abah

This question paper consists of **16 pages** including this cover page.

#### ***Instructions***

- 1. Students should answer ALL questions.**
- 2. Questions should be numbered correctly.**
- 3. Students should write neatly and legibly.**
- 4. Cheating in the examination results in an examination declared null and void.**

**UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA EXAMINATIONS**

## **SECTION A**

### **Question 1: Multiple Choice**

Answer ALL the questions. Choose the most appropriate response. Just write the number of the question and the letter of the correct answer, e.g. 1. A

1.1. Which of the following statements best describes the order of the seven steps in the research process?

- A. Designing the study, collecting data, identifying the problem, analyzing the data, review the literature, Report and evaluate the findings.
- B. Report and evaluate the findings, collecting data, Designing the study, analyzing the data, identifying the problem, review the literature
- C. Review the literature, designing the study, identifying the problem, analyzing the data, review the literature, report and evaluate the findings
- D. Identifying the problem, reviewing the literature, designing the study, collecting the data, analyzing the data, reporting and evaluating the findings.

1.2. Which scale is the simplest form of measurement?

- A. Ratio
- B. Ordinal
- C. Nominal
- D. Interval

1.3. Which of the following is not a research design?

- A. Applied research
- B. Case study
- C. Grounded theory
- D. Single study design

1.4. The snowball sampling involves.....

- A. Collecting more varied samples over time
- B. Following up on specific cases for more detailed information
- C. Changing the direction of sampling as research needs evolve
- D. Using previous research participants to identify future participants

1.5. The purpose statement in research:

- A. States the goals that the research should accomplish.
- B. Makes predictions about what the research will reveal.
- C. Raises questions to be answered by the research.
- D. Provides an overall direction to the research.

1.6. Which of the following is best investigated with quantitative research?

- A. Track the level of alcohol use by students at universities.
- B. Identify important themes from interviews of Karas Region legislators on Education Committee.
- C. Study daily lives of poor urban youth in Oshakati.
- D. Explore the meaning of waiting for a liver transplant.

1.7. Which approach is the strongest for establishing that a relationship is causal?

- A. Causal-comperative
- B. Correlational
- C. Experimental
- D. Historical

1.8. A philosophical paradigm whose aim is to critique the prevailing social conditions and system of constraints and challenge existing social practices is called:

- A. Pragmatic paradigm
- B. Critical paradigm
- C. Positivist Paradigm
- D. Interpretivist paradigm

1.9. This is a variable that obscures the effects of another variable:

- A. Independent Variable
- B. Dependent Variable
- C. Confounding Variable
- D. Variable

1.10. The extent to which a measure taps the underlying concept that it purports to measure:

- A. Variability
- B. Confirmability
- C. Reliability
- D. Validity

1.11. The following should be considered when selecting a research topic:

- A. Personal interest
- B. Contribution to the field
- C. Economic factors
- D. All of the above

1.12. Which statement is **not** correct about research?

- A. Research is begun because someone has asked a question that requires an answer.
- B. Research may involve venturing into areas of thought about which little is known.
- C. Research is needed if the aim is to increase the extent and complexity of existing knowledge.
- D. Research has to be planned and conducted because it is a scientific way of gathering information

1.13. What does a representative sample mean?

- A. A sample similar to the population in all respects.
- B. A sample that is smaller in size than the population from which it was obtained.
- C. A replica of the population with respect to the characteristic under investigation.
- D. A sample whose mean is estimated to be within sampling errors of the population mean.

1.14. "Internal validity" refers to whether:

- A. There is really a causal relationship between two variables.
- B. The findings are relevant to the researchers' everyday lives.
- C. The researcher believes that this was a worthwhile project.
- D. The measurements represent underlying concepts accurately.

1.15. Research in education is important for teachers because:

- A. It adds to their academic qualifications.
- B. It makes them wiser.
- C. It makes them better teachers.
- D. It enables them to make best possible judgments about what should be taught and how.

1.16. Which one of these guidelines is not appropriate for an interview?

- A. Listen more and talk less.
- B. Do not interrupt.
- C. Do not tolerate silence.
- D. Ask probing questions.

1.17. Which one of the following statements does not define focus group discussions:

- A. Used for generating information on collective views and the meanings that lie behind those views.
- B. Researchers are not allowed to deviate from the set of questions except to clarify the meaning of the question.
- C. Generate a rich understanding of participants' experiences and beliefs.
- D. Particularly useful when the interaction between individuals will lead to a shared understanding of the questions posed by the researcher.

1.18. A hypothesis in educational research needs not be:

- A. Compatible with well-attested theories and models.
- B. Logically consistent and pertinent to the question under consideration.
- C. Capable of establishing generalizations that can be applied in many areas of education or other fields.
- D. None of these.

1.19. If the population on which a study is based is such that all its units can be reached, it is termed as:

- A. Target population.
- B. Accessible population.
- C. Homogeneous population.
- D. Heterogeneous population.

1.20. Sampling frame means:

- A. Identification of target and accessible population.
- B. Defining sample unit and selecting units.
- C. Preparing a complete list of the units of a finite population for drawing a sample.
- D. Fixing the sample size and drawing a sample.

1.21. Which of the following is undesirable in a questionnaire?

- A. Asking for unnecessary information that lengthens the questionnaire.
- B. Avoiding ambiguity in questions.
- C. Simplest possible wording and suitable vocabulary.
- D. Avoiding questions which the subjects will not answer or will not answer truthfully.

1.22. What is the meaning of population in Educational Research?

- A. Male, Female, Children
- B. Observation of all the units
- C. Elites
- D. All of these.

1.23. What is the meaning of Null Hypothesis?

- A. Difference between two parametric mean is zero.
- B. The difference is due to error in sampling.
- C. Both (A) and (B)
- D. None of these.

1.24. When the questions are presented to the respondents in a face-to-face situation, and the interviewer rather than the subjects, fills out the query, it is called:

- A. An Inventory.
- B. A Questionnaire.
- C. A Schedule.
- D. Test

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## **SECTION B**

### **Question 2: Short Answer Questions**

2.1 Briefly describe the following types of research. Include examples in your answers.

(a). Applied research

(b). Basic research

(6)

2.2 Explain the role of the researcher in each of the research proposal components below.

(a). Orientation

(b). Concept clarification

(c). Methodology

(d). Sampling

(e). Ethical consideration

(10)

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**Question 3: Matching**

Match the items in Column A with suitable definitions/descriptions in Column B. Just write the letter in Column B next to the appropriate number in Column A, e.g. 3.1 P

<b>COLUMN A</b>	<b>COLUMN B</b>
3.1. Data Analysis	A. A small-scale trial of a study often conducted before the full scale.
3.2. Interpretation of findings in research means	B. A number between -1 and +1
3.3. Descriptive statistics	C. A formal document outlining a planned research project, including its purpose, methodology, and expected outcomes.
3.4. Member Check	D. Help us to come to conclusions and make predictions based on our data.
3.5. Correlation Coefficient	E. Explaining the meaning and significance of the collected data, drawing conclusions based on the results, and relating them back to the research question or hypothesis.
3.6. Type I Error	F. As one variable increases, the other variable also increases
3.7. Positive Correlation	G. Occurs when a statistical test incorrectly rejects a null hypothesis that is actually true.
3.8. Pilot Study	H. The practice of working with data to extract meaningful insights for informed decision-making.
3.9. Research proposal	I. Describes what the data look like

3.10. Inferential statistics	J. Respondent validation
3.11. Mode	K. A research methodology where the researcher is immersed in the day-to-day activities of the participants to record conduct under the widest range of possible settings.
3.12. Mean	L. Sees the world from an objective perspective and considers knowledge to be outside the researcher.
3.13. Research design	M. The value you calculate when you want the arithmetic average.
3.14. Participant Observer	N. Questions in a data collection instruments that allow the participants to give their own answers
3.15. Inductive method	O. The most frequently occurring number in a set of values
	P. They are used to present categorical data
	Q. A comprehensive plan for answering a research question, outlining the overall strategy for data collection and analysis.
	R. A "bottom-up" approach where patterns and relationships are identified in data, leading to the formulation of a general rule or theory.
	S. Occurs when a null hypothesis is accepted when it is actually false.

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## SECTION C

### Question 4

Read the excerpt below and answer questions following thereafter:

*Namibian primary schools are overcrowded. The official classroom capacity of 30 learners and a teacher is far from reality. At some schools, the teacher learner ratio is 1:40 and some learners are sharing chairs and desks. Teachers complain that the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture is violating the Policy on teacher/learner ratio and are threatening to sue the Ministry. This type of situation is a barrier to effective teaching and learning and some teachers fear that the situation will soon get out of control. This is a major issue that negatively impacts students' education and can contribute to lower academic performance. Overcrowding leads to a lack of individual attention from teachers, difficulties in implementing revised curricula, and overworked teachers.*

You are tasked to investigate this matter in your research project based on the following:

- (a) Create a *working title* for the research project. (2)
- (b) In what philosophical worldview would you position the research project? State reasons why you have positioned the project as such. (4)
- (c) Which research methodology will you adopt and why? (4)
- (d) Which research design is appropriate for the research project and why? (3)
- (e) How would you collect data for this research project? (2)
- (f) What are the possible ethical issues that can arise because of this research project? Explain how you will prevent such issues? (5)

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### Question 5

Read the abstract below and answer questions following thereafter:

**Mobile devices are increasingly used by students in university lectures. This has resulted in controversy and the banning of mobile devices in some lectures. Although there has been some research into how students use laptop computers in lectures, there has been little investigation into the wider use of mobile devices. This study was designed to investigate which mobile devices students use, what they use them for and the duration of each activity within 1 hour lectures. Students in six cross faculty core classes (n=74 students total) at Bond University responded to a survey asking them to document and comment on their mobile device use over the previous hour at the end of their lecture. A focus group of students who had not been surveyed was conducted to cross-validate the survey results. The key results were that 66% of students responding to the survey reported using a mobile device in the lecture. Of this group, 45% used a mobile phone and 38% a laptop.**

- (a) Which research design was used in this study? (1)
- (b). Which research approach was used in this study? Justify your answer. (2)
- (c). Identify the purpose in this study. (2)
- (d). Design three research questions from the objectives of the study. (3)
- (e). Why was qualitative (focus group discussion) used in this study?
- (f). Mention one variable used in this study. (1)

[10]

**Question 6**

Study the research description below and answer the questions that follow.

*An educational researcher is interested in studying the relationship between students' participation in two after school programs and academic achievement. Students were grouped into two groups. One group of students participated in an after-school program that emphasized critical thinking skills while the other group participated in an after school program that emphasized rote memorization.*

- (a). Create a suitable hypothesis from the description above which includes all variables, and a suitable research question. (5)
- (b). Identify two variables used in the abstract above. (2)
- (c). Mention the independent variable, and dependent variable identified in (b) (2)
- (d). Which research design was used in the abstract above? Justify your answer. (2)
- (e). Explain the bias which you have observed in this abstract. Justify your answer. (2)
- (f) What are the tests called that are conducted before and after the study? (2)

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**Total Mark: Section C [45]**

**Grand Total: 100**