



UNAM
UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA

FACULTY	EDUCATION & HUMAN SCIENCES		
SCHOOL	EDUCATION		
DEPARTMENT	APPLIED EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES		
SUBJECT	EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH		
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DURATION	3 Hours	MARKS	100

FIRST OPPORTUNITY EXAMINATION

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Moderator: Dr. N. Mbukusa

This memorandum paper consists of **11 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

(1 Mark each)

Answer **ALL** the questions. Choose the most appropriate response.

1.1 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 a study
- D) Describe the study

1.2 If you have a clear and specific idea about what is to be researched, you should

- A) Formulate the research question
- B) Write a research proposal
- C) Talk to your supervisor
- D) Follow the steps of selecting a research problem

1.3 In which chapter is the data collection method often found in most studies?

- A) Chapter 1
- B) Chapter 2
- C) Chapter 3
- D) Chapter 4

1.4 Mrs Mutoiwa is writing her daily observations of a student and writes, without interpretation, that the student is not completing the classwork and is constantly speaking out of turn. Which of the following objectives does she appear to be using?

- A) prediction
- B) description
- C) explanation
- D) exploration

1.5 Which research approach is least concerned about generalising its findings?

- A) Quantitative research approach
- B) Qualitative research approach
- C) Mixed Method research approach
- D) Choosing the data collection methods approach

1.6 One step that is not included in planning a research study is:

- A) Identifying a researchable problem
- B) A review of current research
- C) Statement of the research question
- D) Conducting a meta-analysis of the research

1.7 Qualitative observation usually done for exploratory purposes is also called _____ observation.

- A) Structured
- B) Naturalistic
- C) Complete
- D) Probed

1.8 An Educational Research lecturer at the University of Namibia is interested in whether there is a causal relationship between the language of the test items and the learner's achievement. The researcher measured the extent to which having test items in Silozi would impact learner achievement. In which paradigm is the study positioned?

- A) Pragmatic paradigm
- B) Critical paradigm
- C) Positivist paradigm
- D) Interpretivist paradigm

1.9 Which of the following are the five key objectives of science

- A) prediction, summary, conclusion, explanation, description
- B) influence, prediction, questions, exploration, answers
- C) exploration, description, explanation, prediction, influence
- D) questions, answers, prediction, explanation, summary

1.10 There is a school in the Zambezi Region that uses an individualised learning approach. A certain researcher wants to find out why learners are taught that way and how learners, parents and teachers feel and think about it. In this case, the primary purpose of the study is:

- A) Exploration
- B) Description
- C) Influence
- D) Prediction

1.11 Which research is carried out to advance our knowledge about a phenomenon is.

- A) Applied research

- B) Education research
- C) Advanced research
- D) Basic research

1.12 The research that involves the collection and analysis of data to make decisions related to the merit or worth of a specific program is known as:

- A) Applied research
- B) Action research
- C) Evaluation research
- D) Development research

1.13 Which one of the following is a characteristic of constructivist research?

- A) understanding social behaviour and meaning
- B) generalisation to the population
- C) describing and explaining phenomena
- D) unpacking issues of power and oppression

1.14 Research in which the researcher uses the qualitative paradigm for one phase and the quantitative paradigm for another phase is known as:

- A) Qualitative experimental research
- B) Experimental research
- C) Mixed method research
- D) Single-phase research

1.15 Research that is done to examine the findings of someone else using the "same variables but different people" is which of the following?

- A) exploration
- B) hypothesis
- C) replication
- D) empiricism

1.16 The degree to which variables are related is expressed as

- A) Causal- comparative
- B) True experimental
- C) Ethnography
- D) Correlational coefficient

1.17 The following is not an example of a primary source

- A) Research report
- B) Dissertation
- C) Experiments
- D) Reference book

1.18 The group that receives the experimental treatment condition is known as?

- A) Experimental group
- B) Control group
- C) Participant group
- D) Independent group

1.19 The paradigm suitable for objectively studying the regularities and relationships:

- A) Positivist
- B) Pragmatist
- C) Critical theory
- D) Interpretivist

1.20 The purpose of generating hypotheses in research is to:

- A) State goals that the research should accomplish.
- B) Provide overall direction to the research.
- C) Make predictions about what the research will reveal.
- D) Raise questions to be answered by the research.

[20]

Question 2: TRUE OR FALSE

State whether the statements are **true or false**.

(1 Mark each)

2.1 Identifying the main ideas of the study is one of the steps to be followed when a researcher is developing a concept map.

2.2 If a researcher wishes to examine existing records or documents, he/she may opt to administer a questionnaire to the research participants.

2.3 If you are interested in your research topic and research problem, you will have prepared your mind to notice more things and generate more of your ideas.

2.4 Interpretivism is a philosophy of research that focuses on understanding the meaning events have for people in particular situations.

2.5 A researcher doesn't have to choose a research problem that interests him/her.

2.6 Just because a problem exists and a researcher can identify the issue it does not always mean that the problem is researchable.

2.7 Ontology deals with questions such as what counts as knowledge and what the limits of knowledge are.

2.8 Positivist philosophy is often considered the traditional scientific method.

2.9 Research problems best studied using the quantitative approach are those in which the issue needs to be explained; problems best addressed by the qualitative approach are those that need to be explored.

2.10 The general purpose of the qualitative research approach is to probe deeply into the research setting to obtain an in-depth understanding of the way things are, why they are like that and how participants perceive them.

[10]

Question 3

Matching Questions

Match the terms 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 C) (2 Marks each)

Column A	Column B
3.1 Social constructivism	A. Refers to the collection of data to examine the usefulness of theory in solving educational problems.
3.2 Applied Research	B. Provides the theory that produces the concepts for solving educational problems.
3.3 Hypothesis	C. Seek for meaning of the world they live and work in.
3.4 Critical Theory	D. Arise out of actions, situations and consequences and is concerned with what works and solutions to problems.
3.5 Basic Research	E. Has a position that research should include politics, political agenda and lives of participants.

3.6 Qualitative interpretation	F. Studies cause and effect, therefore it is deterministic.
3.7 Survey	G. The researcher first carries out a quantitative method and uses a qualitative method to follow up and refine the quantitative findings.
3.8 Explanatory research	H. Represent the most common type of self-report measures through questionnaires.
3.9 Exploratory Research	I. A research design that holds that all genuine knowledge is based on the sense of experience and can be advanced through observation and experiment.
3.10 Pragmatic Research	J. It means that the researcher steps back and forms some larger meaning about the phenomenon based on personal views, comparisons with past studies, or both.
	K. Refers to records that the researcher writes throughout the research process to elaborate on ideas about the data and the coded categories.
	L. Refers to an educated guess that the researcher formulates to narrow the purpose statement to specific predictions.
	M. Represent the most common type of self-report measures through questionnaires.
	N. The researcher uses qualitative data to explore a topic before attempting to measure or test it quantitatively.
	O. Collection and analysis of data to examine the usefulness of theory in solving practical problems, thus focuses on answering practical questions to provide relatively immediate solutions.

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SECTION B: Short Answer Questions – Answer ALL questions

Question 4

4.1 Ethical principles should be observed by a researcher when conducting research where humans and animals are involved. Explain how a researcher will apply best practices to ensure anonymity & confidentiality, and informed consent. (6)

4.2 Identify the sources of knowledge in each of the statements presented below. (5)

- a) A lecturer observes that 8 out of 10 group projects submitted over two semesters show improved quality when peer feedback is introduced before final submission. She concludes: *“Peer feedback before submission likely improves group project outcomes.”*
- b) Many universities continue using closed book final exams worth 70% of course marks, not because of recent evidence, but because “this is how assessment has always been done.”
- c) A student teacher learns classroom management strategies not from theory but from managing a disruptive class during practicum, leading to the belief that “proximity to off-task students works best.”
- d) A university curriculum includes Piaget’s stages of cognitive development because his work is cited as authoritative in developmental psychology textbooks, not because the curriculum designer verified the original studies.
- e) All formative assessments improve learning outcomes if accompanied by timely feedback. Weekly quizzes with automated feedback are a form of formative assessment. Therefore, weekly quizzes with automated feedback improve learning outcomes.

4.3 The Scientific Method is another source of knowledge. State two reasons why it is a reliable source of knowledge as compared to others. (4)

4.4 Give three reasons why a theoretical framework important in a research study? (6)

[21]

Question 5

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

An educational researcher conducted a four-week study at a primary school in Katima Mulilo to examine the possible effect of a School Feeding Program on learner attendance. Attendance data were recorded daily for 120 enrolled learners over a total of 20 school days (4 weeks). The researcher compared attendance rates before and after meals were served each day.

During Week 1 to 3, average morning attendance before the meal service was 82, 85 and 88% respectively. By the end of Week 4, this had gradually increased to 91%. In contrast, average attendance after the meal service started at 79, 75 and 69% in Week 1, 2 and 3 respectively, but declined steadily to 63% by Week 4. Overall, attendance before meals showed a 9% increase over the four weeks, whereas attendance after meals decreased by 16% over the same period. Averaged across 20 days, the daily attendance pattern was 86.5% before meals and 71.2% after meals. This represents a difference of 15.3 percentage points, with attendance being lower after meals.

5.1 Name the research approach used in this study. (2)

5.2 Based on the description, state a null and an alternative hypothesis suitable for this study. (4)

5.3 In a table form, summarise the findings of this research study. (5)

5.4 Identify the possible dependent and independent variables in the research description. (2)

5.5 Based on the research description above, create a working title for this study. Include all elements essential in a title of the study (4)

5.6 Formulate two possible quantitative research questions for this study. (4)

[17]

Question 6

Quantitative research is distinct from quantitative research. In a table form, clarify the distinction between quantitative and qualitative research through their purpose, design, approach, tools, sample and analysis. (12)

[12]

TOTAL [100]