

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
FINAL EXAMINATION

MAY 2009

COURSE TITLE : RESEARCH METHODS

COURSE CODE : NUR 332

TIME ALLOWED : 2 HOURS

MARKS ALLOCATED: 75

Number of pages including cover: 6

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY**
 - 2. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**
 - 3. PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY**

**MARK ALLOCATION: Each correct fact or phrase is worth one mark
unless indicated otherwise.**

***DO NOT OPEN UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE
INVIGILATOR***

QUESTION 1

For questions 1-10 choose the most correct answer to the statements given. Write only the letter corresponding to the correct answer in your answer book.

- 1.1 When knowledge is acquired through common sense understandings of the world, this is referred to as :
- Mysticism
 - Rationalism
 - Conventionalism
 - Empiricism
- 1.2. When research enables one to foretell future events, this is called :
- Prediction
 - Description
 - Divination
 - Parsimony
- 1.3 Which of the following statements is **not true** about scientific research
- It is empirical
 - It is not replicable
 - It is systematic and logical
 - It is reductive
- 1.4 A type of research design that relies on measurement or numerical data is the :
- Quantitative
 - Qualitative
 - Correlational research
 - All the above
- 1.5 Operational definitions serve to :
- Indicate the fundamental characteristics of a concept under study
 - Increase the researcher's knowledge base
 - Guide the researcher towards a methodology to use for the study
 - Do none of the above
- 1.6 A statement that reads " the young age of partners at the time of marriage has adverse influences on the stability of the marriage" is a
- Research question
 - Hypothesis
 - Variable
 - Conceptual definition
- 1.7 A literature review does all of the following **except**:
- To familiarize the researcher with the latest developments in the research area
 - Identify gaps in knowledge
 - To identify variables to be considered in the research
 - To broaden the scope of the research

- 1.8type of sampling consists of selecting elements at equal intervals
- Simple random sampling
 - Stratified random sampling
 - Interval or systematic sampling
 - Non-probability sampling
- 1.9 When a researcher chooses a sample according to availability, what type of sampling is s/he using?
- Convenience/ accidental sampling
 - Quota sampling
 - Cluster sampling
 - Probability sampling
- 1.10 A cross-sectional study refers to one whose data collection is done :
- At various intervals over a long period of time
 - At one point in time
 - Over random intervals
 - Over the whole population
- 1.11 A research problem is best defined as :
- A characteristic of the object of the research
 - An issue or difficulty to which a researcher needs to find solutions.
 - What the researcher aims to achieve
 - The problem encountered by a researcher while conducting a research study
- 1.12 A literature review is done using all but which one of the following?
- Books
 - Journals
 - Newspapers
 - Oral narration of events
- 1.13 The 'population' in a research study refers to:
- A group of people with common characteristics and who the researcher is interested in studying.
 - Elements that are taken from the larger whole
 - A cluster of people living within the same geographical boundary.
- 1.14 In descriptive statistics which one of the following cannot be used to present data ?
- Direct narratives from the participants
 - Graphs
 - Tables
 - Frequency polygons

- 1.15 In a class test the results show a distribution curve that is skewed to the right, this means:
- More students obtained scores between 50 and 60%
 - More students obtained scores between 30 and 50%
 - More students obtained scores between 80 and 100%
 - More students failed than passed.
- 1.16 Which of the following is the **most accurate** definition of research?
- It is simply gathering information
 - It is the transference of facts from one location to another
 - It is finding information on the internet
 - It is a systematic process of investigating a certain phenomenon in order to gain more information about it.
- 1.17 The term 'empirical' in research suggests that :
- Research is objective
 - The research process is conducted according to the investigator's preference
 - Research originates from non observable phenomena
 - Research is based on observation of facts in nature
- 1.18 During the conceptual phase of the research process which of the following applies?
- Identification of the research problem
 - Conducting a pilot study
 - Doing a data analysis
 - Obtaining informed consent from the participants
- 1.19 When classifying people by gender which type of measurement scale is used ?
- Ordinal scales
 - Interval scale
 - Nominal scale
 - Ratio scale
- 1.20 The type of non probability sampling where early sample members are asked to identify and refer other people who meet the eligibility criteria is called:
- Systematic sampling
 - Snowball sampling
 - Quota sampling
 - Purposive sampling
- 1.21 A specification of the most suitable method to be utilised in order to test a specific hypothesis or answer a particular research question is called a:
- Research objective
 - Research design
 - Conceptual framework
 - Literature review

- 1.22 Problem conception in nursing may be all the following *except*:
- Personal interest
 - The Bible
 - Previous research
 - Clinical setting
- 1.23 A researcher is deciding what to do with data once it has been collected. This is performing which of the following in the research process?
- Designing the approach to be taken
 - Determining the data collection tool.
 - Determining the data analysis plan
 - Determining the limitations of a study
- 1.24 The best data collection method is :
- Going to be decided by the purpose of the research.
 - Observation
 - Interviewing
 - Dependent on the problem statement
- 1.25 Which of these is not a data collection method?
- Informed consent
 - Observation
 - Focus groups
 - Self-report questionnaires

TOTAL MARKS : 25

QUESTION 2

- 2.1 **Explain** four (4) purposes of scientific research. (8)
- 2.2 State any six (6) characteristics of quantitative research. (6)
- 2.3 Define 'variable'. (1)
- 2.4 In the following research problems identify the independent and dependent variables. (10)
- How do nurses and physicians differ in the way they perceive the extended role of the nurse ?
 - Does problem oriented recording lead to more effective patient care than other recording methods?
 - Do elderly patients have lower pain thresholds than younger patients ?
 - How are sleeping patterns of infants affected by different forms of stimulation?
 - Can home visits by nurses to released psychiatric patients reduce readmission rates. (10)

TOTAL MARKS : 25

QUESTION 3

- 3.1 Discuss the design and methodology stage of a research project. (8)
- 3.2 Describe the empirical stage of a research project. (4)
- 3.3 Explain any five (5) pieces of information to give to prospective participants to obtain informed consent. (10)
- 3.4 Explain how informed consent is obtained when the research subjects are children. (3)

TOTAL MARKS : 25