

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

DEGREE : MAY/JUNE EXAMINATION 2017

SOC211

RESEARCH METHODS

TIME : 1½ HOURS

MARKS : 50

INSTRUCTION: ANSWER TWO (2) QUESTIONS ONLY.

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF 2 PAGES

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Question 1

- a) Explain the differences between “cross-sectional studies” and “longitudinal studies”. (10)
- b) Discuss the general guidelines for asking questions using the questionnaire instrument as an example. (15)

[25]

Question 2

2.1 The interview is an alternative method of collecting survey data. Rather than asking respondents to read questionnaires and enter their own answers, researchers send interviewers to ask the questions orally and record respondents’ answers. Interviewing is typically done in a face-to-face encounter, but telephone interviewing follows most of the same guidelines.

Briefly discuss the different types of interviews, namely,

- (a) Contact interviews (face-to-face) (3)
- (b) Telephone interviews (3)
- (c) E-mail interviews (3)

2.2 Briefly explain the different structures of the interviews below:

- (a) Highly structured interviews (3)
- (b) Semi-structured interviews (3)
- (c) Unstructured interviews (3)

2.3 Briefly describe the strengths and weaknesses of any one type of interview (face-to-face, mail interview, telephone interview). (7)

[25]

Question 3

“The observational method is the primary technique for collecting data on non-verbal behavior”. Identify and discuss the major steps of observational studies.

[25]

Question 4

4.1 Write short explanatory notes on the following terms

- 4.1.1 Data sources [3]
- 4.1.2 Secondary analysis [3]
- 4.1.3 Content analysis [3]
- 4.1.4 Historical research [3]
- 4.1.5 Participatory Action Research [3]

4.2 Identify and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of document study. [10]

[25]

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