



University of Fort Hare  
*Together in Excellence*

**PUB: 511 - RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

**Main Degree Examination, May/June 2023**

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<b>Time:</b>	<b>3 Hours</b>
<b>Paper:</b>	<b>Research Methodology</b>
<b>Marks:</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Public Administration</b>

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**This paper consists of 2 pages including the cover page**

**INTERNAL EXAMINER**  
Dr MM Sibanda [UFH]

**EXTERNAL EXAMINER**  
Dr MIM Biljohn [UFS]

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- (i) Answer any **TWO (2)** questions of your choice.
- (ii) All questions carry equal Marks.
- (iii) You are advised to spend at most, 1½ hour on each of your answer.
- (iv) You are expected to draw relevant examples and illustrations from research in the study and practice of Public Administration.
- (v) Credit will be given for answers that clearly articulate the relevance and applicability of various research and epistemic traditions in the study and practice of Public Administration.

**Question, 1****(50 Marks)**

A researcher's worldview has a profound influence on the paradigm, research approach and philosophical foundations that underpin his or her enquiry. The different ontologies and epistemologies associated with these approaches point to appropriately different methodologies and recording techniques for each.

- (i) Clearly define a paradigm, also clarifying its key components. [20 marks]
- (ii) Critically discuss any **two** research philosophies (research paradigms), illustrating and justifying how each of your chosen paradigms can be used to justify and inform the research strategy, design, procedures, and data collection methods of your own Honours research study. [30 marks]

**Question, 2****(50 Marks)**

The trustworthiness of qualitative research is generally often questioned by positivists, perhaps because their concepts of validity and reliability cannot be addressed in the same way in naturalistic work.

Discuss the various strategies you would employ as a researcher in Public Administration to ensure rigour in a qualitative research study.

**Question, 3****(50 Marks)**

Ethics touch "researchers and their research choices, research topics, methodologies and methods, and writing styles" (Sikes, 2006, p. 106).

Critically reflect on this statement, clearly discussing and illustrating the need for observing research ethics and highlighting the ethical issues you would observe in a typical Public Administration study/Honours research project.

**END OF MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER**