

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

**RESEARCH METHODS IN
CRIMINOLOGY**

DEGREE EXAMINATIONS

MAY/JUNE

2023

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Time: 3 Hours

Subject: CRM511

Marks: 100

Internal Examiner

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External Examiner

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INSTRUCTIONS

This examination comprises of two sections - A and B.

While section A contains only one (1) question, section B contains four questions.

Answer the only question in section A, and any other two (2) questions of your choice in section B.

SECTION A (This section is compulsory)

Question 1

(a) Research on human participants is underpinned by moral and ethical principles. A researcher must focus on five key ethical components as they relate to the research participants. Identify and explain these five ethical components. **[20 Marks]**

(b) Every field has several predominant paradigms, each with its own unique ontological and epistemological perspective. Critically discuss the following paradigms in criminological research:

- (i) Positivism
- (ii) Interpretivism
- (iii) Social constructivism
- (iv) Critical paradigm
- (v) Postmodernism

[20 Marks]

SECTION B (Answer any two questions of your choice in this section)

Question 2

(a) Critically discuss the differences between applied and basic research.

[5Marks]

(b) Just as every field begins with a set of concepts and terminologies, criminological research has some key concepts. Discuss the following key research concepts extensively:

- (i) Ontology
- (ii) Epistemology
- (iii) Research approach
- (iv) Research strategy
- (v) Research method

[25 Marks]

Question 3

(a) Define the term “research methods”.

[3Marks]

(b) It is important to understand that research itself is a process that is defined by the approach taken to it in the first place. In the right order, list and briefly explain the nine steps in undertaking a research project.

[27Marks]

Question 4

(a) Explain the concept of triangulation in criminological research. **[5Marks]**

(b) Explain the key differences between quantitative and qualitative research approaches.

[25 Marks]