

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

Epistemology and Research Methods in Political Science

MAIN EXAMINATIONS

June 2023

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Time: 3 hours
Subject: POL 511
Marks: 100

This paper consists of two pages including the cover page

Internal Examiners

Dr. B. Magure

External Moderator

Prof. Sally Matthews

Instructions

Answer all questions

1. Following Burrell and Morgan (1979):
 - (a) Draw, label and briefly explain a scheme for analyzing assumptions about the nature of social science (16)
 - (b) List the four major debates in sociology (4)
 - (c) Detail the assumptions about the nature of social science (4)

2. What do you understand by the following terms:
 - (a) Ontology (2)
 - (b) Epistemology (2)
 - (c) Interpretive paradigm (3)

3. Identify and explain any one area of controversy associated with unstructured observation in qualitative research.

4. Write short notes on:
 - (a) Context of a study (4)
 - (b) Problem statement (4)
 - (c) Rationale of a study (4)
 - (d) The characteristics of a good research question and its relationship with research objective (4)
 - (e) Theoretical framework and its importance in research (6)
 - (f) Significance of a study (4)
 - (g) The importance of a literature review (4)
 - (h) Key attributes of a good literature review. (4)

5. Drawing on your own research proposal, discuss why the methodology you have selected is appropriate for answering the research question(s) you have developed. (25)

6. Elaborate on how a seasoned researcher goes about writing up an ethnographic research report on any topic using insights drawn from Duncan Light (2006) [10]