



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

PUB 511: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

**Bachelor of Administration Honours in Public Administration - Special
Examination, January/February, 2019**

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Time: 3 Hours

Subject: Public Administration

Paper: PUB 511: - Research Methodology

Marks: 100

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This paper consists of 2 pages including the cover page

INTERNAL EXAMINER
Dr MM Sibanda [University of Fort Hare]

EXTERNAL EXAMINER
Prof C. Hofisi [North-West University]

INSTRUCTIONS

- (i) Answer any **TWO (2)** questions of your choice
- (ii) All questions carry equal marks
- (iii) You are advised to spend at most, one hour on each of your answers

Question 1**[50 Marks]**

Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of using the interview **AND** the questionnaire as data collection techniques.

Question 2**[50 Marks]**

- (i) What is sampling and what is its purpose when conducting research? Describe the basic building blocks of sampling theory, as well as, any **four (4)** sampling techniques, explaining under what research conditions each of them is most appropriate.

Question 3**[50 Marks]**

A researcher's worldview has profound influence on the paradigm, research approach and philosophical foundations that underpin his/her enquiry. The different ontologies and epistemologies associated with networks of coherent ideas about the nature of the world and the functions of researchers which are adhered to by a community of scholars/researchers, often conditions a researcher's thinking and underpins his/her research design and approach.

In light of the above statement:

- (i) Describe and explain a paradigm (Kuhn, 1970) and its key components? [15 Marks]
(ii) Using your understanding of paradigms/worldviews, critically compare realist/positivist and idealist/interpretivist research traditions in Public Administration research. Use any **four** paradigms to support your answer. [35 Marks]

Question 4**[50 Marks]**

Write short notes on any three of the following:

- (i) Research problem
(ii) Validity and reliability
(iii) Hypothesis
(iv) The four levels of measurement in research (Nominal, Ordinal, Interval and Ratio scales)

END OF EXAMINATION PAPER