

Student Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL WORK  
BA EXAMINATIONS**

**SOC 2302-11A: INTRODUCTION TO QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS**

**AUGUST 2023**

**MARKS: 100**

**Time: 2 Hrs. 30 Minutes**

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

This paper consists of two sections. Answer Section A questions on the Question Paper.

Use answering folders to write your answers for Section B.

Section A has 25 multiple-choice and fill-in the blanks questions. **Answer ALL questions in Section A.** Each question carries 2 marks.

Section B has 3 essay type questions. **Answer any two questions.** Each question in Section B carries **25** marks.

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**SECTION A (Compulsory)**

1. The quantitative approach is also known as the \_\_\_\_\_ approach.
  - a) Interpretive
  - b) Tables and graphs
  - c) Statistics
  - d) Positivist
  
2. Which of the following best describes quantitative research approach?
  - a) Research that explains
  - b) Research that explores
  - c) Research that describes
  - d) Both A and B
  - e) Both A and C
  
3. Using the deductive approach implies:
  - a) Testing a theory
  - b) The search to explain causal relationships between variables
  - c) A highly structured research approach
  - d) All the above
  
4. Among others, a social researcher reviews literature to:
  - a) Refine the problem statement
  - b) Identify limitations in the area
  - c) Exhibit knowledge about area of interest

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- d) Both A and B
- e) Both A and C

5. Which of the following is not a referencing style?
  - a) Vancouver
  - b) London
  - c) APA
  - d) Chicago
  
6. Puseletso was conducting a study on attitudes towards homosexuality among Basotho. While conducting literature review, she reviewed literature on homosexuality in overseas countries, African countries and finally in Lesotho. Which literature review approach did she utilise?
  - a) Countries approach
  - b) Funnel approach
  - c) Content approach
  - d) Top-down approach
  
7. What is the purpose of research ethics?
  - a) They prohibit researchers from falsifying research findings
  - b) They foster human rights
  - c) They promote justice
  - d) All of the above
  
8. Which research ethic is most associated with the aftermath of the Stanford Prison?
  - a) Experiment?
  - b) Beneficence
  - c) Maleficence
  - d) Equity
  - e) Anonymity
  
9. Palesa conducted a quantitative study to establish tertiary students' attitudes towards copying during examinations at the National University of Lesotho. After selecting her sample of 500 students, she addressed them all in the Netherlands Hall, explaining everything about her study. After that, she engaged them one by one. Which major research ethics influenced Palesa's decision to explain herself in detail and to engage the human subjects one by one?
  - a) Informed consent and anonymity
  - b) Informed consent and autonomy
  - c) Deceit and informed consent
  - d) All of the above
  
10. Before collecting data from the field, researchers ought to seek research permission from \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Research authorities
  - a) Gatekeepers

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- b) Research officers
- c) Ethics officers

11. Which mode of communication was used to search for research participants in the Stanford Prison Experiment?

- a) Postal messages
- b) Television adverts
- c) Facebook adverts
- d) Newspaper adverts
- e) WhatsApp adverts

12. Which term best describes the consistency of an assessment measure?

- a) Reliability
- b) Operationalisation
- c) Validity
- d) Both A and C

13. Maximising validity of measurement also implies increasing the reliability of measurement.

- a) True
- b) False

14. A variable with two attributes is called a \_\_\_\_\_ variable.

- a) Dyad
- b) Bi-variable
- c) Bi-attribute
- d) Dichotomous

15. When each member of a population has an equally likely chance of being selected, this is called:

- a) A non-random sampling technique
- b) A table of random numbers
- c) A snowball sample
- d) A probability sampling technique

16. Which of the following will give a more “accurate” representation of the population from which a sample has been taken?

- a) A large sample based on the convenience sampling technique
- b) A small sample based on simple random sampling
- c) A large sample based on simple random sampling
- d) A small cluster sample

17. Operationalisation involves defining key concepts of the study and measuring instruments.

- a) True
- b) False

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18. Nthabiseng collected a sample of 300 students taking SOC 2302 at NUL, whereupon she divided them by sex, and then took a random sample of the males and a random sampling of the females. What sampling technique did she use?
- Simple random sampling
  - Systematic random sampling
  - Stratification sampling
  - Multistage sampling
19. Determining the sampling interval (represented by  $k$ ), randomly selecting a number between 1 and  $k$ , and including each  $k^{\text{th}}$  element in your sample are the steps for which form of sampling?
- Simple random sampling
  - Stratified random sampling
  - Systematic random sampling
  - Multistage sampling
20. Which of the following is the factor that researchers manipulate so that it is the only factor allowed to vary systematically in an experiment?
- independent variable
  - discreet variables
  - continuous variables
  - dependent variable
21. Which of the following control techniques available to the researcher controls for both known and unknown variables in experimental research?
- One-shot case study
  - Matching
  - Random assignment
  - Generalisation
22. The value of piloting your questionnaire is that it helps you to:
- Test out your questions on some of the people who will be in the final sample
  - Identify and amend any problems in the question wording, order and format
  - Find out what a trained pilot would think of the subject matter
  - All of the above
23. Which of the following steps can be taken to improve response rates to postal questionnaires?
- Write a personalized covering letter to introduce the research
  - Enclose a stamped addressed envelope with a postal questionnaire
  - Send polite reminder letters
  - All of the above
24. A Null hypothesis can also be written as:
- $H_0$

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- b)  $H_0$
- c)  $H_{null}$
- d)  $H_1$

25. Ms Mohau has three [3] groups of 5 students she supervises in a research project course, SOC4301 at Year4. Group A did not take SOC2302 and SOC2305 at Year2. Group B studied and passed SOC2302 and SOC2305. Group C studied SOC2302 and SOC2305 BUT only passed SOC2302. Which group is the control group?

- a) Group A
- b) Group B
- c) Group C
- d) There is NO control group

## Section B

**Answer any two questions; 25 marks each.**

1. Discuss **five** guiding principles for asking questions when constructing a questionnaire.
2. Using **five** key characteristics, compare and contrast qualitative and quantitative research approaches.
3. Using relevant examples, examine **four** levels of measurement that are utilised by social researchers.