

THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO

BAURP. EXAMINATION

GES3561: RESEARCH METHODS

JANUARY, 2024

TOTAL MARKS: 100

TIME: 3HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- **Answer any four (4) questions**
 - **Where befitting, illustrate answers with relevant diagrams.**
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QUESTION 1

- a) Define the following elements of research:
- i. Concepts [3]
 - ii. Constructs [3]
 - iii. Variables [3]
 - iv. Proposition [3]
- b) Identify three features of a research problem and explain their relevance to the research undertaking. [9]
- c) Show how the research objective(s) is related to the research aim. [4]
- [25]

QUESTION 2

- a) Define Axiology. [2]
- b) As a geographer you would like to study cultural meanings of diet categories (cuisine, produce, vegetables and cooking process) amongst NUL students. You decide to interview individuals from the population to study how these cultural meanings are assigned to dietary patterns. Name the most likely approach that you will use and the rationale for your choice. [5]
- c) Which three concepts are included in the research philosophy? [6]
- d) Explain each of the three mentioned in (c) above and show their relevance in research. [12]
- [25]

QUESTION 3

- a) Ethical considerations in research involve avoidance of several kinds of harm. Mention and explain them. [5]
 - b) Discuss how ethnography as a data collection technique can be used and identify the possible harm that can happen as well as how to apply ethical considerations in order to minimise or avoid harm. [20]
- [25]**

QUESTION 4

- a) Define sampling and mention the two main techniques of sampling. [5]
- b) Determining the sample size is a task that depends on a number of factors.
 - i. Mention five such factors [5]
 - ii. Explain any three of the mentioned factors in (i) and show how they determine the sample size. [15]

QUESTION 5

Imagine you were tasked to evaluate the performance of a project that was meant to alleviate poverty in a particular area B and detail how you would go about undertaking the data collection.

Expound on the data collection method you would use by:

- a) Naming and explaining in brief what that method is. [5]
 - b) How one goes about employing the method, [8]
 - c) Three potential challenges they could come into because of using the chosen method(s) as well as [6]
 - d) Three traits that make the methods ideal. [6]
- [25]**

QUESTION 6

Mention and discuss the measurement scales in research and show their importance. [25]