

MA SOCIOLOGY
Third Semester
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
(MSO - 301)

Duration: 3Hrs.

Full Marks: 70

Part-A (Objective) =20
Part-B (Descriptive) =50

(PART-B: Descriptive)

Duration: 2 hrs. 40 mins.

Marks: 50

**Answer any *four* from *Question no. 2 to 8*
Question no. 1 is compulsory.**

1. What is the significance of report writing? What are the different steps of writing report? (4+6=10)
2. Define Hypothesis. What are the different sources of hypothesis? If the topic of your research is the '**Comparative study of the performance of students of Sociology in USTM and Don Bosco University**', write five possible hypotheses on the topic. (2+3+5=10)
3. What are the different purposes of sampling? Which type of sampling will be ideal if the topic of your research is '**Patterns of using mobile phones among the people of a village**'? Justify by giving arguments. (4+6=10)
4. What are the different steps in conducting scientific research? If you have to choose between exploratory, experimental and descriptive research for studying the cultural practices of an unknown tribe in the remote periphery in Andaman island, which method you will opt. Justify with supportive arguments. (5+5=10)

5. Define Content analysis. If the topic of your research is '**Violence against Sikhs as reported in Times of India newspapers during 1984**', trace the different steps of content analysis in it. (3+7=10)
6. What are the different types of observation? Which method of observation will be ideal to study the behavior of the customers in a pub? Justify by giving arguments. (5+5=10)
7. Data collection is the backbone of research. Discuss about the various techniques used for data collection. (10)
8. Define Interview as a method of data collection? What are the different characteristics of interview method? Which type of interview will ideal if your respondents are the members of Al Qaeda group? Justify by giving arguments. (2+4+4=10)

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Marks – 20

(PART A - Objective Type)

I. Choose the correct answer:

1×20=20

1. What is a research design?
 - A. A framework for every stage of the collection and analysis of data.
 - B. A way of conducting research that is not grounded in theory.
 - C. The choice between using qualitative or quantitative methods.
 - D. The style in which you present your research findings.
2. In an experimental design, the dependent variable is:
 - A. The one that is manipulated in order to observe any effects on the other.
 - B. A measure of the extent to which personal values affect research.
 - C. An ambiguous concept whose meaning depends on how it is defined.
 - D. The one that is not manipulated and in which any changes are observed.
3. A cross-sectional design is:
 - A. The collection of data from more than one case at one moment in time.
 - B. A study of one particular section of society, e.g. the middle classes.
 - C. One that is devised when the researcher is in a bad mood.
 - D. A comparison of two or more variables over a long period of time.
4. When planning to do social research, it is better to:
 - A. Approach the topic with an open mind.
 - B. Do a pilot study before getting stuck into it.
 - C. Be familiar with the literature on the topic.
 - D. Forget about theory because this is a very practical undertaking.
5. Which comes first, theory or research?
 - A. Theory, because otherwise you are working in the dark.
 - B. Research, because that's the only way you can develop a theory.
 - C. It depends on your point of view.
 - D. The question is meaningless, because you can't have one without the other.
6. We review the relevant literature to know:
 - A. What is already known about the topic.
 - B. What concepts and theories have been applied to the topic.
 - C. Who are the key contributors to the topic.
 - D. All of the above.

7. A deductive theory is one that:
- A. Allows theory to emerge out of the data.
 - B. Involves testing an explicitly defined hypothesis.
 - C. Allows for findings to feed back into the stock of knowledge.
 - D. Uses qualitative methods whenever possible.
8. Which of the following is not a data-collection method?
- A. Research questions
 - B. Unstructured interviewing
 - C. Postal survey questionnaires
 - D. Participant observation
9. Why is data analysis concerned with data reduction?
- A. Because far too much data is collected than is required.
 - B. Because we need to make sense of the data.
 - C. Because of the repetitions in answers to questionnaires.
 - D. Because the sample size has been exceeded.
10. The qualitative research strategy places a value on:
- A. Using numbers, measurements and statistical techniques.
 - B. Generating theories through inductive research about social meanings.
 - C. Conducting research that is of a very high quality.
 - D. All of the above.
11. An important practical issue to consider when designing a research project is:
- A. Which theoretical perspective you find most interesting.
 - B. How much time and money you have to conduct the research.
 - C. Whether or not you have time to retille the bathroom first.
 - D. Which colour of ring binder to present your work in.
12. How can you tell if your research questions are really good?
- A. If they guide your literature search.
 - B. If they are linked together to help you construct a coherent argument.
 - C. If they force you to narrow the scope of your research.
 - D. All of the above.
13. Why is it helpful to keep a research diary or log book while you are conducting your project?
- A. To give you something to do in the early stages of your research when nothing is happening.
 - B. Because funding councils generally demand to see written evidence that you were working every day during the period of the research.
 - C. To keep a record of what you did and what happened throughout the research process.
 - D. It can be added to your dissertation to ensure that you reach the required word limit.
14. Why do you need to review the existing literature?
- A. To make sure you have a long list of references.
 - B. Because without it, you could never reach the required word-count.
 - C. To find out what is already known about your area of interest.
 - D. To help in your general studying.

15. A simple random sample is one in which:
- A. From a random starting point, every nth unit from the sampling frame is selected.
 - B. A non-probability strategy is used, making the results difficult to generalize.
 - C. The researcher has a certain quota of respondents to fill for various social groups.
 - D. Every unit of the population has an equal chance of being selected.
16. Which of the following is not a type of non-probability sampling?
- A. Snowball sampling
 - B. Stratified random sampling
 - C. Quota sampling
 - D. Convenience sampling
17. Why is it important for structured interviews to follow a standardized procedure?
- A. To increase validity, as the interview can be adapted for each respondent.
 - B. To increase reliability, because all respondents receive the same interview stimulus.
 - C. To allow for an in-depth exploration of the topic.
 - D. To make it easier for untrained interviewers to carry out complex surveys.
18. Closed ended questions are those that:
- A. Have a fixed range of possible answers.
 - B. Prevent respondents from allocating themselves to a category.
 - C. Encourage detailed, elaborate responses.
 - D. Relate to the basic demographic characteristics of respondents.
19. The value of piloting a questionnaire is that it helps you to:
- A. Test out your questions on some of the people who will be in the final sample.
 - B. Identify and amend any problems in the question wording, order and format.
 - C. Find out what a trained pilot would think of the subject matter.
 - D. All of the above.
20. Which of the following is a method that is commonly used in qualitative research?
- A. Self-completion questionnaires
 - B. Surveys
 - C. Ethnography
 - D. Structured observation
