

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES  
BA DEGREE PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND YOUTH AND  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (2023/2024)  
FINAL EXAMINATION – LEVEL V (FIRST SEMESTER)  
DSU5651: SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS  
DURATION: THREE HOURS (03 HOURS)**



**Date: 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Time: 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

**Answer only FIVE (05) questions. Each question carries 20 marks.**

1. Why is it necessary to operationalize concepts in social science research? Explain your answer with relevant examples.
2. What is the use of a theoretical paradigm in social science research? Which theoretical paradigm would you use in your own research? Justify your answer.
3. “The way natural science understands the world is different from how human science would understand the world” Examine this statement with relevant examples.
4. Compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis.
5. Why does ethnographic research occupy such a significant position in the social science research tradition? Justify your answer with relevant examples.
6. Discuss the appropriateness of survey research in social science research. Briefly describe the strengths and weaknesses in using survey research method.
7. What is a research proposal? Discuss the important considerations when developing a research proposal.
8. What is documentary research? What are the four main ways to choose suitable documents for social science research?
9. Write short notes on any four (04) of the following:
  - a) Academic writing and plagiarism
  - b) Feminist theory
  - c) Research design
  - d) Research ethics
  - e) Interpretivism
  - f) Dissemination of research findings