

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
 BA DEGREE PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCES (2024/ 2025)
 FINAL EXAMINATION – LEVEL V (SEMESTER I)
 DSU5651: SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS
 DURATION: THREE HOURS (03 HOURS)



Date: 29.03.2025

Time: 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

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

1. “Operationalizing concepts plays a vital role in social science research”. Explain with examples why it is necessary to operationalize concepts in social science research.
2. In the course material provided, different theoretical paradigms are discussed. Which of the theoretical paradigms would you apply to your own research? Justify your answer with reference to your research.
3. What are the steps in a research process that you should follow in order to successfully conduct a research on a chosen theme?
4. “Positivism differs from Interpretivism and there may be some shared beliefs”. Elucidate this statement with the relevant examples.
5. “Mixed-method research refers to the use of both quantitative and qualitative methods.” How would a researcher find the balance between both methods in conducting research? Discuss your answer along with the strengths and weaknesses of using mixed-method.
6. “An ethnographer may have to face many challenges while conducting ethnographic research”. Discuss those challenges and how they could be overcome.
7. Examine the four main criteria that a researcher will have to consider when using documents for social research.
8. What is a research proposal? Briefly discuss the important considerations when developing a research proposal.
9. Write short notes on any four (04) of the following:
 - a) Unstructured interview
 - b) Survey method
 - c) Research design
 - d) Research ethics
 - e) Documentary research
 - f) Dissemination of research findings