

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
 INFORMATION STUDIES UNIT
 FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
 BA HONOURS IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES
 FINAL EXAMINATION – 2025/26
 LEVEL 6 (SEMESTER I)
 HSU6406 – RESEARCH METHODOLOGY



DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS ONLY

Date: 11.10.2025

Time: 9.30am. – 12.30pm.

Instructions

Index No:

- Answer only five (05) questions including question no. 1 which is compulsory.
- All questions carry equal marks (20 marks).

Compulsory question

1. In the digital age, adolescents are increasingly exposed to screens, Mobile phone, TV, computers etc., often at the cost of sleep and study time. While screen time may distract from academic work, sleep is essential for memory. This study investigates how these two lifestyle factors, screen time and sleep time, influence academic performance.

Based on the above study, answer the following questions.

- i. Construct the appropriate main objective/s and 3 specific objectives
- ii. Draw research questions for the above explained study.
- iii. Write a suitable problem statement for the above explained study.
- iv. Draw the conceptual framework for the study depicting independent and dependent variables.

4x5=20 marks

Answer 4 questions out of 8 questions (Question 2-9) given below

2. Explain the following concepts with examples
 - i. Basic and applied research
 - ii. Longitudinal and cross-sectional studies
 - iii. Qualitative and quantitative research
 - iv. Primary and secondary data
 - v. Plagiarism and paraphrasing

4x5=20 marks

3. Discuss the significance of conducting a Literature Survey (LS) and writing a Literature Review (LR) in the early stages of a research project. Support your discussion with examples. 20 marks
4. Sampling is a critical component of research design, influencing validity and generalizability of findings. 08 marks
- i. Explain probability and non-probability sampling methods. 08 marks
 - ii. Discuss three types of non-probability sampling methods. Highlight their characteristics, limitations, and appropriate contexts for use. 12 marks
5. "Interviews are powerful method of collecting qualitative data in social science research". 10 marks
- i. Explain the different modes or ways of conducting interviews and discuss how each mode influences the quality of data collected. 10 marks
 - ii. Discuss advantages and disadvantages of each interview type with examples. 10 marks
6. i. Define research ethics and explain its core objectives. 10 marks
- ii. Discuss the reasons why adhering to ethical norms is vital in research. 10 marks
7. Discuss the significance of qualitative data analysis in social science research. In your answer, explain the major techniques used in qualitative analysis, highlighting their applications, advantages, and limitations. 20 marks
8. i. Explain the different types of questionnaires used in data collection. 08 marks
- ii. Discuss the factors that influence the effectiveness of a questionnaire in relation to quantitative data analysis. 12 marks
9. i. Explain the research types by philosophy. 08 marks
- ii. Research philosophy can be considered in three main ways: Ontological, Epistemological and Axiological assumptions. Explain these three (03) assumptions. 12 marks