

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**  
**DEGREE OF MASTER OF EDUCATION PROGRAMME**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION 2007**  
**ESP 2313 – RESEARCH METHODS IN EDUCATION**  
**DURATION : THREE (03 ) HOURS**



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**DATE : 14<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

**TIME: 9.30a.m. – 12.30 p.m.**

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**ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER THREE QUESTIONS. ONE RESEARCH PROBLEM CAN BE USED AS AN EXAMPLE TO ANSWER ONE QUESTION ONLY.**

01. Given below are four themes (a-d) related to Educational Research. Select one theme and answer the following questions (i-vii).

- (a) School based management and the role of the principal.
- (b) High failure rates in Mathematics at all public examinations.
- (c) Co-curricular activities and problems in schools.
- (d) English Medium Education for every child.

i. Identify a specific research problem in relation to one of the themes given above and write it down in the given space.

Theme .....

Problem .....

.....

(6 marks)

ii. Formulate three specific research objectives/questions/hypotheses in relation to the problem specified

(3 x 3 = 9 marks)

1. ....

.....

2. ....

.....

3. ....

.....

- iii. Select a suitable research design to study the chosen research problem and justify your selection.

(2 x 2 = 4 marks)

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Explain the suitable sampling design with your justification.

(2 x 2 = 4 marks)

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- iv. Indicate the methods of data collection and techniques of data analysis that you intend to use.

(3 x 2 = 6 marks)

Objectives/ Hypotheses/ Research Questions	Methods of data collection	Techniques of data analysis
1.	.....	.....
2.	.....	.....
3	.....	.....
as indicated in Q.ii	.....	.....

- v. Significance of the study (4 marks)

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.....

vi. Expected outcomes (at least three) (3 marks)

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....

vii. Limitations of your study (at least two) (4 marks)

1. ....  
.....
2. ....  
.....

02. Write short notes on any three of the following. (20 marks)

- i. The uses of data triangulation for a researcher.
- ii. Focus group discussions as a method of data collection.
- iii. Content analysis: Different Techniques
- iv. Conducting Historical Research for Educational purposes.
- v. Participant observation: problems encountered by researchers.

03. i. "A questionnaire, as an instrument used for data collection would easily suit any research problem". Critically examine this statement in line with the criteria used for selecting an instrument for collecting data in a research. (10 marks)

ii. State three different types of observations and compare and contrast those three types using suitable examples. (10 marks)

04. i. Discuss four main characteristics of Action Research Design. (8 marks)

ii. State a specific research problem that can be studied using Action Research Design and produce a detailed outline of your research by incorporating the four characteristics mentioned above. The format for the outline is given below.

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Research problem. | 2. Objectives.     |
| 3. Sample            | 4. Data collection |
| 5. Analysis of data  | 6. Report writing. |

(12 marks)

05. i. Discuss with examples, three specific uses of conducting a literature survey for a researcher. (10 marks)
- ii. Ethical issues may arise in any aspect of the research process. Discuss with examples, the procedures you would follow to manage ethical issues arising from
1. the methods of data collection and
  2. the nature of the participants of your research. (10 marks)
06. i. Compare and contrast Experimental Research Design and Ethnographic Research Design under the following headings. Highlight suitable examples wherever necessary.
- a) The main characteristics
  - b) The main purposes of conducting a research.
  - c) The specific research procedure to be followed.
  - d) Methods of data collection. (5 each = 20 marks)
07. Listed below are some of the problems encountered in conducting research.
- a) The large volume of data collected through a field research.
  - b) A number of variables to be controlled in an Experimental Research.
  - c) Non-availability of the total sampling frame for a research.
  - d) Subjectivity of the researcher in collecting data.
- i. Select any two problems and discuss reasons (two each) leading to these problems. (8 marks)
- ii. Explain in detail, the measures (3 for each) you would take to overcome the above problems. (12 marks)

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