

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**  
**DEGREE OF MASTER OF EDUCATION PROGRAMME**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION 2009**  
**ESP 2313 – RESEARCH METHODS IN EDUCATION**  
**DURATION : THREE (03 ) HOURS**



**DATE : 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

**TIME: 9.30a.m. – 12.30 p.m.**

**Instructions.**

1. Answer Question **One** and any other **Two** questions. One research problem can be used to answer one question only.
2. Write the answer for Question **One** in the question paper itself.

01. "National Centre for Research" has called for proposals from researches to conduct research studies on the following themes.
- (a) Improving English Language Skills in Students.
  - (b) Completion of AL Projects; Problems and Solutions.
  - (c) Methods and Techniques used by Teachers in the Teaching-learning process.
  - (d) Closure of Waggama Vidyalaya: Is Sri Lanka providing equal educational opportunities?

You are going to develop a proposal to be submitted to National Centre for Research for consideration.

- I. Write down the specific research problem you have identified in relation to one of the four themes given below.

Theme:.....

Research problem:

.....  
 .....  
 .....

(5 marks)

- II. Formulate three Objectives/Research Questions/ Hypotheses in relation to the research problem identified above.

(a) .....  
 .....  
 .....

(b) .....

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(3 x 3 = 9)

III. What is the research design suitable for your study? Indicate the research design and reasons for selecting that design (at least two reasons: 2 x 2 = 4)

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IV. What is the sampling design proposed for the above study and your justification for the same.

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(2 x 2 = 4)

V. Data collection and analysis (3 x 2 = 6)

| Objectives/<br>Hypothesis/<br>Questions | Data Collection methods<br>and instruments | Data analysis<br>techniques |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (a)                                     |                                            |                             |
| (b)                                     |                                            |                             |
| (c)                                     |                                            |                             |

VI. Data Triangulation:

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(4 marks)

VII. Significance of the study:

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(4 marks)

VIII. Limitations of the study;

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02. Write short notes on **three** of the followings;

- I. Researcher's role as a participant observer
- II. Qualities of an Ethnographic study.
- III. Purposive sampling: Advantages and disadvantages.
- IV. Review of Literature: purposes and strategies.
- V. Ethical considerations in educational research.

(20 marks:6 for each and overall 2)

03. Identify a crucial problem in your school/working place and develop a plan with sufficient information under the following headings to conduct an action research: (20 marks)
- I. A brief introduction to the problem and significance of studying the problem. (04 marks)
  - II. Objectives of the study and selection of the sample. (05 marks)
  - III. Methods proposed for data collection and data analysis. (05 marks)
  - IV. Action research process planned to be used in the research. (05 marks)
  - V. Your expected involvement in the research process. (02 marks)
04. Select two research designs of your choice out of Experimental, Survey and Ethnographic designs and examine them under the following aspects: (20 marks)
- I. The main purposes of the two research designs. (06 marks)
  - II. Differences in the main characteristics (at least three each) of the two research designs. (06 marks)
  - III. Strengths and limitations of the two designs. (08 marks)
05. Some researchers have faced the following problems in conducting their research studies. (20 marks)
- I. Changes in the behavior of students due to direct observation.
  - II. Limiting the literature review to secondary sources.
  - III. Large volume of data collected in a qualitative research study
  - IV. Low response rate in a questionnaire survey.
- (a) Discuss the possible causes (at least two) leading to each of the above problems and consequences (at least two for each) of these problems. (12 marks)
  - (b) Discuss at least two strategies to overcome each of the problems mentioned above. (08 marks)

06. Select any two data collection methods that are frequently used in educational research and answer the following questions.

(20 marks)

I. Explain two specific research examples each from the literature, those have used the two methods selected.

(08 marks)

II. Compare the advantages (03) and disadvantages (03) of the two methods selected.

(06 marks)

III. Explain how triangulation of methods could lead to improve the quality of data collected.

(06 marks)

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