

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
 POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN DISTANCE EDUCATION  
 FINAL EXAMINATION 2008 - (02<sup>nd</sup> SEMESTER)  
 ESP 1126 – RESEARCH AND EVALUATION IN DISTANCE EDUCATION  
 DURATION : THREE (03) HOURS



DATE : 15<sup>th</sup> September 2008

TIME : 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS IN PART I AND ANY THREE QUESTIONS FROM PART II

PART I

01. Define 'RESEARCH' in the light of an acceptable definition.
02. Briefly explain three limitations of using a purposive sample in a research study.
03. Name three research designs and state one main characteristic of each design.
04. Name **three areas** which are highly researched by distance educators and explain their significance to the field of distance education.
05. A set of marks is distributed according to a normal probability curve. Explain three characteristics of such distribution.
06. Calculate the Mean of the following marks and draw two conclusions about the performance of the students:
 

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
48	43	38	33	28	23	18	13	08	18
07. List out three advantages of assessing students continuously in a distance education programme.
08. State three procedures suitable for programme evaluation in a distance education setting.



## PART II

09. a) Problems faced by Distance Education Institutions.  
b) Quality Assurance in Distance Education Programmes.  
c) Student support in a Distance Education Setting.
1. State a research problem in relation to one of the above themes.
  2. Formulate at least three objectives in relation to the problem you have stated.
  3. Discuss the research process suitable for achieving the objectives you have mentioned above.
10. a) Explain five characteristics of Action Research Design.  
b) State two research problems that can be studied using action research design.  
c) Discuss the advantages in using action research design for the two research studies mentioned above.
11. a) Explain three advantages and three limitations in using a questionnaire for collecting data in a research study.  
b) What strategies would you suggest to reduce the limitations that a researcher would experience when using a questionnaire for data collection.  
c) Explain the steps you would follow to develop a questionnaire.
12. Following set of marks are obtained by 30 students at the first semester examination of a course, in PGDDE.
- |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 27 | 51 | 38 | 22 | 25 | 10 | 13 | 85 | 18 | 70 |
| 64 | 55 | 45 | 82 | 57 | 40 | 62 | 37 | 75 | 45 |
| 60 | 47 | 50 | 72 | 30 | 42 | 34 | 68 | 46 | 52 |
- a) Prepare a frequency distribution for the above set of marks taking (39-51) as one of the class intervals.  
b) Calculate the Mode and Median for this distribution.  
c) Assume that the mean of the above set of marks is in the class interval (39-51) and calculate the Mean.

13. Write short notes on any three of the following.
- a) Participant Observation as a data collection method.
  - b) Findings of the Delph study.
  - c) Limitations in using Experiments in the field of Distance Education.
  - d) New trends in Distance Education.
14. Suppose you are going to conduct a research to evaluate a Programme of Study conducted through the Distance Mode.
- a) Formulate three objectives in relation to the above study.
  - b) Discuss different options available for selection the sample for this study.
  - c) Explain the research methodology (for data collection and data analysis) that you would follow in conducting this study.

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