THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN DISTANCE EDUCATION

FINAL EXAMINATION 2010 - (02ⁿᵈ SEMESTER)

ESP 1126 – RESEARCH AND EVALUATION IN DISTANCE EDUCATION

DURATION : THREE (03) HOURS

DATE : 02ⁿᵈ August 2010	TIME : 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS IN PART I AND <u>ANY THREE QUESTIONS</u> FROM PART II

PART I (05 marks each)

01. Explain briefly the role of research in Distance Education.

02. List <u>three</u> specific characteristics of Experimental Research Design.

03. Explain <u>two</u> specific procedures available for a researcher to select a random sample for a research study.

04. "Continuous Assessment" plays an important role in a distance education programme. Explain briefly two benefits that can be obtained by students through the Continuous Assessment Process.

05. Calculate the Mode and Mean of the following marks and draw conclusions about student achievement levels on that basis.

22	12	18	25	11	50	17	16	30	32	33
40	44	20	25	10	25	32	18			

06. List three characteristics of a normal probability curve.

07. State two research problems that can be studied using action research design.

08. Briefly explain the role of the researcher in relation to "Participant observation"

PART II   (20 marks each)

09.   1.   State a research problem in relation to one of the following themes.
      i.   Effectiveness of Distance Education Programmes
      ii.   Instructional Designs for Distance Education Material
      iii.   On-line interaction.

      2.   Discuss the significance of studying the problem stated in relation to a
           distance education institution.

      3.   Formulate researches objectives for the selected research problem and
           explain the research process suitable for achieving the objectives.

10.   1.   State two research problems that can be studied using Survey Research
           Design.

      2.   Discuss briefly the methods suitable for data collection in relation to the
           two problems mentioned.

      3.   Discuss the benefits a researcher would get by triangulating data in a
           survey research.

11.   Following set of marks were obtained by a group of A/L student in an end of term
      test.

22	12	18	23	10	9	8	50	18	17	16
30	32	22	28	21	24	30	40	42	44	46
19	10	11	15	16	31	37	36	24	25	26
28	23	21	22	8	7	6	5	7	6	9
11	30	26	27	28	26					

      1.   Prepare a frequency distribution taking one class interval as (10-14)

      2.   Calculate the Mean and Standard Deviation for the marks.

      3.   Construct the Cumulative Frequency Curve for the given marks.

12. 1. Explain the main purposes of conducting programme evaluations by a distance institution.

    2. Discuss the strategies available for a researcher to conduct a programme evaluation.

    3. Explain the final outcomes that should be expected from a programme evaluation.

13. Write short notes on <u>three</u> of the following;
    1. Dropout problem in Distance Education.

    2. Strengths and weaknesses of on-line delivery of programmes.

    3. Delphi study and its implications.

    4. Mega universities offering ODL programmes

14. 1. "Open and Distance Learning" would be the best solution for the education problems in Sri Lanka. Give reasons in support and against the above statement.

    2. The development of any ODL institution will be highly on its research capacities. Discuss three reasons to justify this idea.

    4. Discuss three problems faced by an ODL institution trying to improve its research capacities.