

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
 BA DEGREE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – LEVEL V (2018/2019)
 FINAL EXAMINATION
 DSU5651 SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS



DURATION – THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 2nd FEBRUARY 2019

Time: 9.30am to 12.30 pm

Instructions:

Answer FIVE (05) questions only. Each answer carries equal marks.

1. “Validity and reliability are fundamental concerns in scientific research”. Discuss this statement with reference to issues of validity and reliability in social science research.
2. What are the criteria used to select an appropriate research design for a social science research? Discuss with examples.
3. Discuss the process involved in conducting a questionnaire survey on the perception of using online learning among OUSL students.
4. “Experimental research is better suited to explanatory than to descriptive purposes”. Examine this statement with reference to the components of an experimental research.
5. “Planning for data collection is more important than planning for data analysis”. Do you agree? Explain your answer with reference to quantitative data collection and analysis.
6. What is a research proposal? Discuss the components and the benefits of a well-written proposal.
7. “A researcher’s primary obligation is to protect the welfare of participants”. Discuss this statement with reference to ethnographic research.
8. “The use of personal documents as sources of information can be problematic”. Examine this statement and discuss the important criteria associated with documentary research.
9. Write short notes on any three (03).
 - a. Epistemology
 - b. Variables
 - c. Field experiment
 - d. Hypothesis
 - e. Participant observation