



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
MASTYER OF ARTS DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PUBLIC
POLICY (2008/2009)
(A COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF
SRI LANKA AND MARGA INSTITUTE)
FINAL EXAMINATION – 2009
SSP 1226 – MULTI-DISCIPLINARY FRAMEWORK FOR RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 4th December 2009

Time: 1.30 p.m. — 4.30 p.m.

Answer four (04) questions only. Each question carries 25 marks.

1. Explain in detail, with an example, the procedure for entering data into SPSS for data analysis.
2. The following table shows the number of credit hours registered for 20 randomly selected students in a class.

Number of credit hours	frequency (f_i)	mid-point(x_i)	($f_i x_i$)
4 - 6	4	5	20
7 - 9	7	8	56
10 - 12	8	11	88
13 - 15	1	14	14
Total	20		178

- i. Calculate the Sample Mean
 - ii. Calculate the Standard Deviation
 - iii. Estimate 95% Confidence Interval for the Mean
 - iv. Comment on the above results.
3. Choose your answer from a-e
 - i. Suppose the Coefficient of Correlation between the two variables x and y was found to be 0.96, we can say that
 - (a) x and y have variances that are significantly different.
 - (b) x and y have means that are significantly different.
 - (c) x and y have a strong linear relationship.
 - (d) x and y do not have a strong linear relationship.
 - (e) The means of x and y are about the same.

Note: justify your choice.



4. What are the limitations of adopting Quantitative research methods in social science research? What other methods could you use to overcome these limitations?
5. Explain briefly the following:
- i. What is the main difference between a complete enumeration (census) and a sample survey? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the two types of surveys.
 - ii. What is the main difference between a 'Questionnaire' and a 'Schedule'? What is a pre-coded question in a questionnaire? Give the advantages of using pre-coded questions.
 - iii. What is 'Systematic Sampling'? Explain how one should select a sample using 'Systematic Sampling Technique', so that every unit in the population will have a chance of getting selected in the sample. Illustrate using an example.
 - iv. What do you understand by Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) sampling? Explain the procedure using a suitable example.
6. Design a multi-disciplinary framework for the study and analysis of one of the following current development problems in Sri Lanka:
- (i) The problems of higher education
 - (ii) Poverty reduction in the plantation sector
 - (iii) Gender equality
 - (iv) Aging

Provide a network diagram showing the main elements of the framework you have designed for the problem and the interrelations between these elements. Cover all three variables - social economic and political and show the key indicators that you would use for each variable. Explain how the framework can help to identify the critical issues relating to the problem and formulate policies to deal with them.

7. Describe how inflation is measured and discuss the different measures that are available for measuring inflation. Discuss the main differences in the composition of the CCPI {1952 =100} and CCPI (2002=100) based on target populations and weights and evaluate the CCPI (2002=100) as a measure for wage indexation.
8. Describe the concepts of work, employment and unemployment as used in the measurement of the economically active population. Discuss the recent developments in the unemployment rates and unemployment composition identifying sectors in which labour has been absorbed based on the results reported in the Sri Lanka Labour Force Surveys and other data sources.

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