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**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES**  
**MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PUBLIC**  
**POLICY**  
**ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN SOCIAL SCIENCES (SSP 2132)**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION - 2009**

**DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS**

**Date: 06<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

**Time: 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.**

**Answer four (4) questions only**

1. Explain the meaning and importance of research design in conducting social science research.
2. Discuss the alternative methods that can be used in selecting a sample from the population on a random basis. Evaluate their merits and demerits.
3. A sample of the amounts paid for parking on Saturday at the Downtown Parking Garage in Colombo was organized into the following distribution:

Amount paid	Number
1-2	2
3-4	7
5-6	15
7-8	28
9-10	14
11-12	9
13-14	3
15-16	2

- a. Calculate the range.
  - b. Calculate the mean
  - c. Calculate the sample standard deviation.
  - d. Interpret the above findings.
4. a. State the five steps used in hypothesis testing.
  - b. Differentiate the type I error from the type II error in hypothesis testing
  - c. A researcher reports that the average salary of assistant professors is more than Rs. 42,000. A sample of 30 assistant professors has a mean salary of Rs.43, 260. The standard deviation of the population is Rs.5230. At  $\alpha = 0.05$ , test the claim that assistant professors earn more than Rs. 42,000 a year.
5. Compare and contrast the grounded theory and ethnographic interviewing. How are they similar or different in their assumptions about (a) how people think, and (b) what the goals of research are?
  6. "Very often, coding is not only how qualitative research is done, it is what we are studying when we do qualitative research." Explain and discuss this statement.