



**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES**  
**MA IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PUBLIC POLICY**  
**(A COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME OF THE OUSL AND MARGA INSTITUTE)**  
**SSP2132/2106 – ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION – 2010**

**DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS**

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**Date: 02, October, 2010**

**Time: 01.30 pm – 04.30 pm**

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

1. What are the main indicators you would use to analyze the multi-dimensional character of poverty within a multi-disciplinary framework? Analyze the importance of each of these indicators for an understanding of poverty, and substantiate your analysis with examples from the poverty situations in Sri Lanka.
2. I identify and discuss the main elements in the multi-disciplinary approach to the analysis of a development problem or issue. Illustrate your answer with selected development issues in relation to Sri Lanka.
3. (i) What points should be taken into consideration while designing a research project?  
(ii) Examine the merits and limitations of the questionnaire tool in collecting material.
4. (i) Differentiate Quantitative Research from Qualitative Research  
(ii) "Some scholars believe that literature should be reviewed prior to beginning a study; others argue that this may impede the researcher from truly listening, observing and remaining open to new concepts and ideas". Critically review.

5. Given below are the responses obtained to a question asked in relation to specific problems needing action in your organization. You are required to examine these responses and answer the questions raised.

**Research question:**

What are some specific problems needing action in your organization?

**Participant responses – (Unordered list of responses)**

- There is not enough space for everyone.
- There are leadership problems.
- Nonproductive staff members should not be retained.
- There is a lack of attention to individual needs.
- More training is needed at all levels.
- There is favoritism and preferential treatment of staff.
- Communication needs improving.
- There is a lot of "US" and "THEM" sentiment here.
- There needs to be better assessment of employee ability and performance so that promotions can be more objectively based.
- We need more computer terminals.
- Decisions are often based on inaccurate information.
- We need consistent application of policy.
- There are too much of gossiping and criticizing.
- Training is needed for new employees.
- We need a suggestion box.
- We need more objective recruitment and hiring standards.
- We need a better cleaning service for the office.

Based on the responses;

- i. Label data.
- ii. Categorize the data labeled
- iii. Identify emerging trends.
- iv. Group the data into emerging categories.
- v. Conclude on the findings.

6. (a) A statistics practitioner formulated the following hypotheses:

$$H_0: \mu \geq 300$$

$$H_1: \mu < 300$$

and learned that sample mean = 310, sample size ( $n$ ) = 9, and standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) = 50. Compute the  $p$ -value of the test.

(b) Repeat part a with standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) = 30

(c) Repeat part a with standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) = 10

(d) Discuss what happens to the value of the test statistic and its  $p$ -value when the standard deviation decreases.

7. "Typically, regression analysis is used to investigate the relationships between a dependent variable (either categorical or continuous) and a set of independent variables based on a sample from a particular population". Explain, using following variables.

Independent variables (IVs): Beginning salary, Job seniority, Age, Work experience, and Sex.

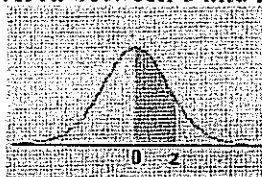
Dependent variable (DV): current salary.

8. Explain the main components of a research proposal.

(a) What is the relevance of a literature review to this proposal?

(b) Explain your methodology in terms of your proposed research.

Standard Normal (Z) Table  
Area between 0 and z



	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.09
0.0	0.0000	0.0040	0.0080	0.0120	0.0160	0.0199	0.0239	0.0279	0.0319	0.0359
0.1	0.0398	0.0438	0.0478	0.0517	0.0557	0.0596	0.0636	0.0675	0.0714	0.0753
0.2	0.0793	0.0832	0.0871	0.0910	0.0948	0.0987	0.1026	0.1064	0.1103	0.1141
0.3	0.1179	0.1217	0.1255	0.1293	0.1331	0.1368	0.1406	0.1443	0.1480	0.1517
0.4	0.1554	0.1591	0.1628	0.1664	0.1700	0.1736	0.1772	0.1808	0.1844	0.1879
0.5	0.1915	0.1950	0.1985	0.2019	0.2054	0.2088	0.2123	0.2157	0.2190	0.2224
0.6	0.2257	0.2291	0.2324	0.2357	0.2389	0.2422	0.2454	0.2486	0.2517	0.2549
0.7	0.2580	0.2611	0.2642	0.2673	0.2704	0.2734	0.2764	0.2794	0.2823	0.2852
0.8	0.2881	0.2910	0.2939	0.2967	0.2995	0.3023	0.3051	0.3078	0.3106	0.3133
0.9	0.3159	0.3186	0.3212	0.3238	0.3264	0.3289	0.3315	0.3340	0.3365	0.3389
1.0	0.3413	0.3438	0.3461	0.3485	0.3508	0.3531	0.3554	0.3577	0.3599	0.3621
1.1	0.3643	0.3665	0.3686	0.3708	0.3729	0.3749	0.3770	0.3790	0.3810	0.3830
1.2	0.3849	0.3869	0.3888	0.3907	0.3925	0.3944	0.3962	0.3980	0.3997	0.4015
1.3	0.4032	0.4049	0.4066	0.4082	0.4099	0.4115	0.4131	0.4147	0.4162	0.4177
1.4	0.4192	0.4207	0.4222	0.4236	0.4251	0.4265	0.4279	0.4292	0.4306	0.4319
1.5	0.4332	0.4345	0.4357	0.4370	0.4382	0.4394	0.4406	0.4418	0.4429	0.4441
1.6	0.4452	0.4463	0.4474	0.4484	0.4495	0.4505	0.4515	0.4525	0.4535	0.4545
1.7	0.4554	0.4564	0.4573	0.4582	0.4591	0.4599	0.4608	0.4616	0.4625	0.4633
1.8	0.4641	0.4649	0.4656	0.4664	0.4671	0.4678	0.4686	0.4693	0.4699	0.4706
1.9	0.4713	0.4719	0.4726	0.4732	0.4738	0.4744	0.4750	0.4756	0.4761	0.4767
2.0	0.4772	0.4778	0.4783	0.4788	0.4793	0.4798	0.4803	0.4808	0.4812	0.4817
2.1	0.4821	0.4826	0.4830	0.4834	0.4838	0.4842	0.4846	0.4850	0.4854	0.4857
2.2	0.4861	0.4864	0.4868	0.4871	0.4875	0.4878	0.4881	0.4884	0.4887	0.4890
2.3	0.4893	0.4896	0.4898	0.4901	0.4904	0.4906	0.4909	0.4911	0.4913	0.4916
2.4	0.4918	0.4920	0.4922	0.4925	0.4927	0.4929	0.4931	0.4932	0.4934	0.4936
2.5	0.4938	0.4940	0.4941	0.4943	0.4945	0.4946	0.4948	0.4949	0.4951	0.4952
2.6	0.4953	0.4955	0.4956	0.4957	0.4959	0.4960	0.4961	0.4962	0.4963	0.4964
2.7	0.4965	0.4966	0.4967	0.4968	0.4969	0.4970	0.4971	0.4972	0.4973	0.4974
2.8	0.4974	0.4975	0.4976	0.4977	0.4977	0.4978	0.4979	0.4979	0.4980	0.4981
2.9	0.4981	0.4982	0.4982	0.4983	0.4984	0.4984	0.4985	0.4985	0.4986	0.4986
3.0	0.4987	0.4987	0.4987	0.4988	0.4988	0.4989	0.4989	0.4989	0.4990	0.4990