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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)
SSP1226/1219 – MULTI-DISCIPLINARY FRAMEWORK FOR RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS
FINAL EXAMINATION – 2010
DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 28 November, 2010

Time: 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

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

1. (a) "The data editor in SPSS has two views: the data view and the variable view". Illustrate.
(b) Why is the "Number of Friends" variable a "Scale" variable?
(c) Explain
 - i. String variable
 - ii. Missing data/values
 - iii. Coding variables
 - iv. Currency variable

2. A manufacturer of computer chips claims that less than 10% of his products are defective. When 1,000 chips were drawn from a large production, 7.5% were found to be defective.
 - (a) What is the population of interest?
 - (b) What is the sample?
 - (c) Does the value 10% refer to the parameter or the statistic?
 - (d) Explain briefly how the statistic can be used to make inferences about the parameter to test the claim.

3. (a) In a "taste test" 115 people were asked to taste five different brands of tea and to report which one they preferred.

The results are listed here

brand	frequency
A	34
B	18
C	12
D	41
E	10

- (i) Draw a bar chart
- (ii) Draw a pie chart
- (iii) What do the charts tell you about the sample of tea drinkers?

- (b) The mean number of hours a student spends on the computer is 3.1 per working week. Assume that the standard deviation is 0.5 hour. Find the percentage of students who spend less than 3.5 hours on the computer.
4. (a) "Qualitative research describes a set of non statistical techniques for gathering data about social phenomena". Explain.
 (b) What are the major methods used to collect qualitative data?
5. Design a multi-disciplinary framework for the study and analysis of one of the following situations:
- (i) High School dropouts observed in a rural school in the Ampara District.
 (ii) Poverty reduction in urban shanty settlement and the plantation sector
 (iii) Discrimination against women
 (v) Labour migration of women
- In answering the question,
- a. Provide a network diagram showing the main elements of the framework you have designed for the problem and the interrelations between these elements.
 b. Cover all three variables – social, economic and political and show the key indicators that you would use for each variable.
 c. Explain how the framework can help to identify the critical issues relating to the problem and formulate policies to deal with them.
6. "A multi disciplinary approach is essential for the analysis of any development problem". Discuss with examples.
7. "Questions such as "How many parents would consult their general practitioner when their child has a mild temperature?" or "What proportion of smokers has tried to give up?" clearly need answering through quantitative methods. But questions like "Why do parents worry so much about their children's temperature?" and "What stops people giving up smoking?" cannot and should not be answered by leaping in and measuring the first aspect of the problem that we (the outsiders) think might be important". Explain.
8. Write short notes on any four (04) of the following.
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| i. one-tailed test and two-tailed test | ii. Case study and Action research |
| iii. Standard normal distribution and Z- value | iv. Nominal data and ordinal data |
| v. Census and sample survey | vi. Pre-coded and post –coded data |