

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
 MA DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PUBLIC POLICY 2012/2013  
 MARGA – THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA COLLABORATIVE  
 PROGRAMME – LEVEL VII  
 FINAL EXAMINATION – 2013  
 SSP 1226/1219 – MULTI-DISCIPLINARY FRAMEWORK FOR RESEARCH  
 AND ANALYSIS



DURATION – THREE (03) HOURS

Date : 10<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Time : 9.30 a.m – 12.30 p.m

Answer four (04) questions.

Each questions carries 25 marks.

- (1) Critically assess the contribution of the food subsidy to human development in Sri Lanka using a multi -disciplinary framework of analysis.
- (2) What are the limitations of adopting a single method i.e. either Quantitative or Qualitative- in social research?
- (3)
  - i. Correlation quantifies the extent to which two quantitative variables, X and Y, “go together.” Explain.
  - ii. “The sign of the correlation coefficient determines whether the correlation is positive or negative. The magnitude of the correlation coefficient determines the strength of the correlation”. Illustrate.
  - iii. Interpret the following equation  
 Civil unrest across cities = 4.4 + 0.53 × unemployment rate.  
 $R^2 = 0.81$
- (4) The Rural Bank is reviewing its service charges and interest paying policies on cheque accounts. The bank has found that the average daily balance on personal cheque accounts is Rs.550.00, with a standard deviation of Rs. 150.00. In addition, the average daily balances have been found to be normally distributed.
  - i. What percentage of personal cheque account customers carry when average daily balances are in excess of Rs. 800.00?

Note:

z	.00	.01	.02	.03	.04	.05	.06	.07	.08	.09
.00	.4452	.4463	.4474	.4484	.4495	.4505	.4515	.4525	.4535	.4545

Cont...

- ii. The bank is considering paying interest to customers carrying average daily <sup>1000</sup> balances in excess of a certain amount. If the bank does not want to pay interest to more than 5% of its customers, what is the minimum daily balance it should pay interest on?

(5) Consider the computer output below:

variable	N	Mean	St. Dev	SE mean
X	15	8.69	1.72	0.443

- i. Calculate a 95% confidence interval about the mean. What conclusions would you draw from this result?

Note:

$$\bar{X} \pm t_{\alpha/2, n-1} \times \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}}$$

$$t_{0.05/2, 14} = 2.145$$

- ii. The example above is taken from an experiment done by a freight company that wanted to test the claim that deliveries were completed within 8 working days. What conclusions can be drawn about delivery times?
- (6) i. Critique the conventional research paradigm.
- ii. Discuss the historical context of the emergence of participatory research.
- (7) i. What is the process for conducting a Case Study?
- ii. How are Case Studies presented?
- (8) i. Define a Survey.
- ii. Identify the steps in conducting Surveys.
- iii. Examine the advantages and disadvantages of surveys.