

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
MA DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PUBLIC POLICY 2014/2015
MARGA-OUSL COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME – LEVEL 8
SSP2132 – ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES
FINAL EXAMINATION – 2014



DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 20 December 2014

Time: 1.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.

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

1. Explain the key characteristics of positivism and discuss its relevance in predicting and controlling social events.
2. Interpretivism rejects the objectivist view that meaning resides within the world independently of consciousness. Discuss the notion of subjectivity as a legitimate domain for social scientific endeavour.
3. Discuss how qualitative and quantitative research can complement each other in policy research.
4. Discuss the main elements of a research proposal and comment on the rationale behind each element.
5. Discuss the different sampling methods and explain the contexts in which these methods could be adopted.
6. Explain the main preoccupations of quantitative research.
7. (a) Explain the role of the researcher in qualitative studies.
(b) Examine the diverse methods of collecting and presenting qualitative data.
8. Write notes on **two (02)** of the following
 - (a) Measuring the validity of an instrument
 - (b) Method of analysis when comparing differences of two groups
 - (c) Method of analysis when identifying the contribution of each variable to a given model.

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