THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PUBLIC
POLICY (2007/2008)
(A COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF
SRI LANKA AND MARGA INSTITUTE)
FINAL EXAMINATION – 2008
SSP 1219 – MULTI- DISCIPLINARY FRAMEWORK FOR RESEARCH AND
ANALYSIS

DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 22nd November 2008   Time 1.30 p.m. — 4.30 p.m.

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

Answer any four questions.

1. "For multi-disciplinary analysis we need to identify the full network of variables that interact and cover the economic social and political dimensions of the development problem that is being studied." Apply this statement to a development problem of your choice and explain how you would design such a network. Describe the steps that you would follow to gather the necessary information on the problem, trace the multiple causes and map the links. Provide the network diagram in your answer.

2. What are the main elements of the multi- disciplinary framework for the evaluation and monitoring of human development? Assuming that the outcome in human development depends on the interaction of social economic and political processes how would you evaluate the outcome? What are the inputs that lead to the outcome? In what sequence would you depict them? How would you assess the worth of such a framework for policy analysis and policy formulation?

3. Discuss the limitations of quantitative research indicators for studies in human development.
    What are some of the more important research methods that can be used to obtain qualitative information? Give brief descriptions of each method.

4. Explain briefly the following

    (i).   What is the main difference between a complete enumeration (census) and a sample survey. Give three (3) advantages of a household type of survey compared to a census. Give one disadvantage in surveys.
    (ii).   Briefly explain three methods of inquiry in a survey operation. Which method is most suitable for household type of surveys in Sri Lanka?
    (iii). What is the main difference between a 'Questionnaire' and a 'Schedule'. What is a pre-coded question in a questionnaire and give the advantages of using pre-coded questions?
    (iv).   What is a sampling frame. Explain why it is necessary to get the sampling frame up-dated before selecting the sample units.

5. (i)   What is Simple Random Sampling (SRS). What is the difference between SRS-with Replacement and SRS-without replacement?
    (ii)   What is 'Systematic Sampling'? Explain how one should select a sample using 'Systematic Sampling Technique", so that every unit in the population will have a chance of getting selected in the sample. Illustrate using an example.
    (iii) What do you understand by Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) sampling? Explain the procedure using a suitable example.
    (iv)   What is 'Stratified Sampling'? Give three important reasons for using this method in large scale surveys.

6. Below given are the ages of 40 members belonged to the Social Services Programme of a country.

83	51	66	61	82	65	54	56
65	87	68	64	51	70	75	66
54	55	78	69	98	67	82	72
53	88	76	90	84	57	60	52
90	71	83	80	68	65	51	56

Using the class intervals given below:
51-55, 56-60, 61-65, 66-70......etc.
    (i)   Calculate the mean.
    (ii)   Calculate the Standard Deviation.
    (iii) Comment on the spread of data.

7. Write short notes on any **four (4)** of the following.
    (i)   Nominal and ratio measurement scales.
    (ii)   One-tailed test and two-tailed test.
    (iii) The Z-test and the Hypothesis-testing.
    (iv)   Mean and Standard Deviation.
    (v)   Descriptive statistics and Inferential statistics.

8. Please describe
    (i)   (a)   What you mean by SPSS?
           (b)   The importance of a good questionnaire and coding with regard to SPSS data entry and format.
    (ii)   Write short notes on the following:
           (a)   Variables
           (b)   Variable view and data view
           (c) Value labels
           (d)   Missing data
           (e)   Frequency tables
           (f)   Cross tabulations,
           (g)   Central tendencies,
           (h)   Rate, ratio and percentages