



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

DEGREE OF MASTER OF EDUCATION

FINAL EXAMINATION – 2018/2019

ESP2313/STP9813 – RESEARCH METHODS IN EDUCATION

DURATION – THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 23.03.2019

Time: 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Answer question No.01 and any other three (03) questions.

One research problem can be used in one question only.

Write the answer for question No. 01 on the question paper itself.

01. Assume that National Research Council for Education (NRCE) called for research proposal for giving research grants on the following themes related to the field of education. Assume that your Head of the institution requested you to draft a research proposal to win a grant.

- Low achievement level in Mathematics of students in grade 10 & 11.
- ICT in the Teaching & Learning process.
- Poor attendance of student in Advanced level classes
- Student wellbeing and their learning.

i. Select **one (01)** of the themes mentioned above and formulate a specific research problem related to the theme.

Theme:-

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Research problem.

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(10 marks)

ii. State **four (04)** reasons to justify the significance of studying the problem stated above.

- a.
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- b.
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- c.
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- d.
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(04 marks)

iii. Select a suitable research design to study the research problem proposed by you and justify your selection.

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(06 marks)

iv. Write the main purpose and **three (03)** objectives in relation to the proposed study by integrating the concept of SMART.

Purpose: -

Objectives: -

- i.
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- ii.
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- iii.
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(12 marks)

02. i. Differentiate Survey Research Design from Case Study Research design in line with three points. (04 marks)
- ii. Illustrate the main steps of Action Research Design and explain each step with suitable examples. (06 marks)
- iii. Examine the usefulness of action research to teachers in line with empirical evidence. (06 marks)
- iv. State **three (03)** problems encountered by researchers when applying Experimental Research Design in educational research. (04 marks)
03. i. Non-probability sampling and probability sampling are two main types of sampling in a research. Explain both types of sampling. (04 marks)
- ii. Examine the purpose of sampling and the importance of using a sample for conducting a research in line with two research designs. (08 marks)
- iii. Stratified sampling and convenient sampling designs are widely used in educational researches. Explain the use of stratified and convenient sampling in research studies using appropriate examples. (08 marks)
04. i. Compare the main characteristics of quantitative and qualitative research approaches (Using at least **three (03)** characteristics) (04 marks)
- ii. a) Name **two (02)** data collection instruments suitable for each approach and explain the specific characteristics of each.
- b) Examine the involvement of the researcher in line with each instrument. (10 marks)
- iii. Validating a reaches instrument before administrating for data collection is very important. Discuss the importance of validating an instrument and explain steps that you to would use to validate your instrument in your study. (06 marks)

05. i. State with examples the different steps involved in conducting an education research. (04 marks)
- ii. The purpose of a 'problem statement' is to introduce the reader the importance of the topic being studied. Explain **three (03)** factors to be considered in formulating a problem statement. (08 marks)
- iii. Examine how a literature review would be beneficial for researchers to identify research problems and methodology for their research studies. Use specific examples from literature to support your arguments. (08 marks)
06. i. What are the elements to be incorporated in a good research report? Discuss with examples. (06 marks)
- ii. Researchers use "text citation" and "references" in writing a research report. Distinguish both by giving examples. (06 marks)
- iii. What research ethics to be followed by a researcher when writing a research report. Explain. (08 marks)

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