



UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

COURSE: POLITICS 3C (SOCIAL SCIENCE METHODS & POLITICAL SOCIETY)

TIME: 2 HOURS

QUESTION PAPER: MAY 2016 **MARKS:** 100

SUBJECT CODE: PTS3C11

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1. ANSWER ALL YOUR QUESTIONS IN THE SCRIPT PROVIDED.
 2. THIS EXAM PAPER CONSISTS OF 4 PAGES.
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SECTION A: MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1: *Answer all 15 questions. Write down only ONE correct letter next to the question number in your script, for example 1C; 2B; 3A etc. USE ONLY CAPITAL LETTERS.*

1. Typologies ...
 - A. have a classificatory function
 - B. provide a framework for data analysis
 - C. point to commonalities between phenomena
 - D. systemise phenomena
 - E. all of the above
2. Which one of the following statements is false?
 - A. A model is an analogy (e.g. model of solar system).
 - B. A model has a *heuristic* (attempt to discover) function
 - C. A model is a complete representation of a given phenomenon
 - D. A model is a simplification of an actual phenomenon

3. Theories ...
 - A. have an *explanatory* function
 - B. have the task of making the world more intelligible
 - C. go beyond mere description of a situation and attempts to explain phenomena
 - D. could predict the course of events
 - E. all of the above are true
 - F. A,B,C,& D are false

4. Which one of the following statements is false?
 - A. A theory is a simplifying device for a complex reality
 - B. One could eventually expect a theory to explain everything about reality
 - C. According to Thomas Kuhn periods of 'normal science' are followed by scientific revolutions; then 'normal science' again
 - D. Thomas Kuhn is considered the main exponent of paradigms

5. It is noted that a paradigm...
 - A. refers to an established research tradition in a particular discipline
 - B. does not singularly dominate in social science
 - C. is never rejected in favour of a new one
 - D. in social sciences is usually accommodated as the only one
 - E. A & B are correct
 - F. C & D are correct

6. Which one of the following statements is false?
 - A. Induction is often used by positivists and natural scientists, as opposed to deduction which is used by post-positivists in their models of scientific explanation
 - B. Usually the discovery of unexpected new empirical facts leads to a new paradigm
 - C. A concept (construct) refers to the end product of conceptualisation, i.e. agreed-on meanings we assign to terms
 - D. A proposition is a statement about the nature of the relationship between concepts
 - E. A hypothesis is defined as a statement about the nature of the relationship between variables/propositions.

7. Which one or more of the following statements is/are false?
 - A. All science, including Political Science, is increasingly subject to the influence of uncontrollable forces emanating from the political and ethical environments
 - B. Most types of research, including "pure" social science, as well as more "applied" studies such as policy analyses, and programme evaluations are scrutinized by scientists
 - C. Every aspect of political research and analysis involves ethics
 - D. The problem of unethical behaviour by researchers has become a particularly important political issue in the last decades of the 1900s
 - E. None of the above

8. *Ethics*, as a branch of philosophy ...
- A. is the study of the *moral behaviour* of humans in society
 - B. implies that scientific research could allow for potential physical or mental harm to human subjects, as long as the research is scientific
 - C. are an occupational work hazard of fieldwork that the researcher can always plan for
 - D. does not relate to the concept of *scientific misconduct* which encompasses acts of deception
9. Which one of the following statements is true?
- A. "All three of the university professors I've met in my lifetime were religious. Therefore, all university professors are religious", is an example of *Slippery Slope* fallacy
 - B. "Each student in my class is clever; therefore the class as a whole is clever", is an example of *False Dilemma* fallacy
 - C. "Ancient shaman medicine works; Native Americans have used it for hundreds of years", is an example of *Appeal to Ignorance* fallacy
 - D. In their writing (and reasoning), students/researchers are usually proficient at identifying *fallacies* that often occur in essays
 - E. "Johnson argues that our current welfare system is defective; but don't listen to him – he's a conservative", is an example of *Appeal to the Person (Ad Hominem)* fallacy
10. *Research methods* refers to the ways in which data is collected. Some examples of methods used in quantitative studies include ...
- A. questionnaires
 - B. structured and semi-structured interviews
 - C. document and artefact analysis
 - D. A, B & C are correct
 - E. A, B & C are false
11. The scientific community is allowed to do what it wants without regard for the rights of the rest of society.
- A. True
 - B. False
12. The adoption and publication of professional codes of conduct have resolved the issue of research ethics.
- A. True
 - B. False
13. If scientists give up their autonomy, they soon become tempted to serve the political interests of specific governments.
- A. True
 - B. False
14. Scientific research adheres to the epistemic imperative; therefore, science is and should be the pursuit of the goal of truthful knowledge.
- A. True
 - B. False
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15. A *variable* is a characteristic, quality, or anything of interest that can have different values.
A. True
B. False

SECTION A: (15)

SECTION B: ESSAY QUESTIONS: Answer **ALL** the following questions:

QUESTION 2

Briefly describe the process of *Conceptualisation* in the research process (10)

QUESTION 3

Provide a detailed explanation of the following four concepts:
Typologies, Models, Theories and Paradigms (20)

QUESTION 4

Write an essay in which you explain the *Post-positivist* research approach (25)

QUESTION 5

Write an essay on what you understand under the *Legal and Ethical Environment of Research*. Provide examples. (30)

SECTION B: [85]

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