



DEV8X11_EXAM 2019

Development Studies: Honours Research Methods June Final Exam

Total Marks: 100

Hours for this exam: 3 hours

Course Code: DEV8X11

Lecturers: Dr Nqobile Zulu – APK
Dr Richard Devey -Statkon

Instructions to candidates

Answer **both section A and section B**, each of which contain a number of linked sub-questions. All the questions in this paper are compulsory.

The total mark allocation for the paper is **100**.

You have to answer all the questions. For each sub-question, there is a recommended mark. Use the mark allocation to guide you in structuring your answer. You need to prove your knowledge of research methods application in all sections.

Draw on the course reading and lecture notes as far as possible for your answers.

Define the concepts that you use and provide examples.

Section A (Total 80 marks)

Choose ONE of the following research topics:

- National elections in South Africa and the voting patterns of University students.
 - An investigation of the fourth industrial revolution as technological development or technological elitism? A case study of the University of Johannesburg.
 - Applying state regulation to harness the economic wealth of Pentecostal churches for third world development.
 - The factors that influenced national government to adopt land expropriation in 2018 to address rural land acquisition.
 - Evaluating the impact of decolonisation of the Honours Development Studies curriculum at the University of Johannesburg.
-

Design a research proposal to investigate your chosen research topic. In your answer, you need to justify all aspects of your proposed design.

Your design must address the following issues (mark allocation in brackets):

1. The key/main research question and hypothesis you wish to investigate. (4)
2. Discuss five points of the rationale for your research project. (10)
3. Describe the conceptualisation and operationalisation of the research. (6)
4. Briefly discuss how you will conduct a literature review. (5)
5. What is the research approach you will adopt? Why the choice? (5)
6. a) Discuss the research method/s you will use. Mention strengths and weaknesses. (10)
b) Discuss the research instruments you will use. Mention strengths and weaknesses. (10)
7. The sampling techniques you will employ and their strengths and weaknesses. (10)
8. Design five interview questions you might ask in your research. (10)
9. Show how you will deal with ethical issues that may arise from the research (10)

Section B: Quantitative research and analysis (total 20 marks)

Note: Field's decision table for choosing statistical tests must be provided for this section. Note: Students may need use of a calculator.

B1. Quantitative research as theory testing

The abstract below is from a paper titled 'Religiosity and household income in Sekhukhune' by Philipp Öhlmann and Silke Hüttel (2018, p.179). Read the abstract and then answer the questions that follow.

Literature analysing the interrelation of religion and economic performance suggests religion to explain differences in household income. Religious communities foster economically conducive attitudes and are important sources of social capital, particularly under weak economic structures. This paper targets at investigating effects of religiosity on rural household income using survey data from Greater Sekhukhune in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. Using insights from religious studies within a conceptual framework of rural household decision making, the authors estimate an income equation that includes measures for religious affiliation. While church membership per se does not reveal a significant effect on household income, the results show a positive and robust relationship for membership in the Zion Christian Church and the practice of African traditional religion.

B1a. Identify an independent and dependent variable from the abstract (**2 marks**)

B1b. Draw a diagram which demonstrates the theoretical proposition(s) being tested in the study. (**2 marks**)

B1c. Using a theoretical proposition from Öhlmann and Hüttel above, give one example of how you could develop a new theoretical proposition. Include the name(s) of any new variable(s) with your example. (**2 marks**)

B2. Descriptive statistics

Below is a section from 'Table 1. Social demographic characteristics of the sample' from Ngowi & Jani (2018, p. 737). Examine the table and answer the questions that follow.

Table 1. Social demographic characteristics of the sample.

Distribution of respondents	Respondent's characteristics	Frequency	%
Gender	Male	C	56.2
	A	70	43.8
Age	18-25 years	32	D
	26-41 years	68	42.6
	42-50 years	22	13.8
	B	17	10.6
	Above 57	21	13.1
Earn a living from tourism	Yes	79	49.4
	No	81	50.6

B2a. What is the sample size for this study and how did you determine the sample size? (2 marks)

B2b. Information is missing from the shaded cells labelled A, B, C, and D. Work out what response option (cells A and B) or number (cells C and D) should be in the shaded cells and provide a brief explanation of how the missing information was derived. Remember to include both the missing information (the response categories for A and B and the numbers for C and D) as well as a short explanation when answering this question in the exam booklet. (4 marks).

B2c. The mode is a summary statistic we can use for analysis. Provide a definition for the mode and write down the age category which represents the mode for the age variable in Table 1. (2 marks)

B3. Inferential statistics

You are participating in a research project whereby one of the objectives is to compare expenditure levels of small scale farmers in different provinces in South Africa. Expenditure is measured in Rands per month and is a total of several subcategories of expenditure. All nine provinces have been surveyed and each province has a unique code in the dataset. You can assume the data meet assumptions for parametric tests.

B3. Using the decision table from Field (2009) choose the appropriate statistical test to achieve the above objective. Justify how you decided on the test by providing answers to Field's questions in your answer. (Field's questions are – How many outcome/dependent variables? What type of outcome? How many predictor variables? What type of predictor? If categorical predictor, how many categories? If a categorical predictor, are the same or different participants in each category?) (6 marks).

References

Philipp Öhlmann & Silke Hüttel (2018) Religiosity and household income in Sekhukhune, *Development Southern Africa*, 35:2, 179-193

Revocatus Evarist Ngowi & Dev Jani (2018) Residents' perception of tourism and their satisfaction: Evidence from Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, *Development Southern Africa*, 35:6, 731-742

Total marks 100