



## UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

**COURSE:** SOCIOLOGY 3A  
**COURSE CODES:** SOS3A11 / SOC3AA3

**DATE:** 6 to 13 JUNE 2020  
**MARKS:** 50

### JUNE ASSESSMENT: MAIN EXAM

**PAPER:**  
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS

**EXAMINERS:**  
1. DR D DU TOIT (UJ)  
2. DR K DE WET (UFS)

**THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF FOUR [4] PAGES**

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### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

Please take care to read the instructions below before attempting to answer the exam questions

1. This exam paper consists of Section A and Section B.
2. Section A consists of question 1 and question 2. You can choose to complete either question 1 or question 2.
3. Section B consists of question 3 and question 4. You can choose to complete either question 3 or question 4.
4. Bulleted answers will not be marked. Write full sentences and include examples where relevant.
5. Make sure you number your answers. Answers that are not numbered cannot be marked.
6. You have 7 days to prepare, answer and complete this exam. The exam paper will be released on 6 June 2020, and you have until 13 June 2020 (23:59) to submit your exam answers. All submissions, except if you made a prior arrangement with your lecturer, should be done via BlackBoard in Word document format.
7. Please note that this is an exam, thus copying and pasting of class notes, lecturer's slides or prescribed reading will result in poor performance (as it is plagiarism). We are examining your understanding of the content learned, not the repeating of prescribed readings, lecturer's slides or class notes.

8. All submissions must include an assignment cover page with your student details included. Please include your name, surname and student number.
9. Ensure that you have adequate data and a reliable Internet connection so that you make sure that you can successfully submit your exam on Blackboard.
10. When uploading exams or completing assessments online, make sure that everything is completed and uploaded before closing your computer. Apologies such as 'my document did not upload properly' will not be valid. It is your responsibility to make double sure that the assessment is completed and everything is completely uploaded for your exam to be marked.
11. Make sure you meet the deadline and build in enough extra time to complete the exam on time. Build in extra hours in case something goes wrong, such as load shedding. Therefore, do not try to submit your exam at the last minute. Online submissions are programmed to close after the deadline, after which it may no longer be possible to complete your exam online.
12. Always keep a back-up copy of all exams submitted, even uncompleted answers that you are working on. Use sites like Google Drive or One Drive to back up your completed exam in the cloud. This is to protect yourself from losing your work due to your computer getting stolen, breaking down or getting hacked. Losing documents for one or other reason is not a legitimate excuse for not completing assessments on time.

## **SECTION A:**

### **ANSWER EITHER QUESTION 1 OR QUESTION 2:**

#### **QUESTION 1:**

**[TOTAL 25 MARKS]**

You have been asked to conduct a research study on the experiences of Sociology lecturers employed at UJ, Wits and UNISA and how they manage online teaching during the Covid-19 lockdown. This study aims to investigate how male and female lecturers experience teaching online, what specific challenges they experience and how they overcome it. In your answer, you need to include the following:

- a) Explain why a qualitative methodological approach is appropriate for this study. [7]
- b) Explain how you will select the participants from UJ, Wits and UNISA. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of the chosen sampling method and how you will overcome these challenges. [6]
- c) Explain the type of data collection and analysis method you will use and why? [5]
- d) Explain how you will ensure this study fulfils all the ethical requirements of a sociological sound research project. Discuss by giving examples. [7]

**OR**

#### **QUESTION 2:**

**[TOTAL 25 MARKS]**

There has been a recent trend in violent crimes at petrol stations in South Africa. You have been asked to conduct a quantitative research project on petrol attendants and their perceptions of safety at work. You are required to include at least 60 petrol attendants who are employed at three petrol stations in Johannesburg. The study aims to explore whether petrol attendants feel safe at their workplace and what crime prevention tools have been implemented at petrol stations. In your research, you need to include the following:

- a) Explain why a quantitative methodological approach is appropriate for this study. [7]
- b) Explain how you will select the petrol attendants from three petrol stations. Also explain the advantages and disadvantages of the chosen sampling method, and how you will overcome these challenges. [6]
- c) Explain the advantages and disadvantages of using survey questionnaires to collect data [5]
- d) Explain some of the ethical considerations you will implement when conducting this research. Use examples. [7]

## **SECTION B**

### **ANSWER EITHER QUESTION 3 OR QUESTION 4:**

#### **QUESTION 3:**

**[TOTAL 25 MARKS]**



Use your sociological imagination to design a qualitative research project where you critically discuss the following:

- a) Use sociological concepts to explain the picture. [2]
- b) Provide one main research question. [2]
- c) What type of research design will you use and why? [4]
- d) If the sampling method had to be a probable stratified sampling method, explain how you would implement it to sample your study participants. [4]
- e) If the sampling method had to be a non-probable snowball sampling method, explain how you would implement it to sample your study participants.
- f) Discuss how you will collect data and how it will be analysed. [4]
- g) Explain how you will ensure confidentiality for your research participants. [4]
- h) Provide an example of a detailed budget for your study. [5]

**OR**

#### **QUESTION 4:**

**[TOTAL 25 MARKS]**

There is an increase in xenophobic attacks among international students at a South African university. You have been asked to conduct a mixed-methods research study to explore international students' views on safety at this university and how safety can be improved. You plan to conduct ten semi-structured face-to-face interviews with and distribute 100 self-administered survey questionnaires among international students to complete.

- a) Explain the strengths and weaknesses of a mixed-methods research approach. [5]
- b) Explain how you will implement an explorative sequential research design. [5]
- c) Explain how you will select your participants for the qualitative and quantitative parts of this research study and motivate why. [5]
- d) Discuss some of the mistakes researchers can make when conducting qualitative interviews and designing a survey questionnaire. [10]

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**TOTAL = 50 MARKS**

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**SECTION B: SOCIOLOGY OF WORK**  
**THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE [3] PAGES**

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Please take care to read the instructions below before attempting to answer the exam questions

1. This exam paper consists of four questions. You must answer TWO (2) questions.
2. Your answers must be in the form of essays. Each essay must be between 1 200 to 1 500 words in length.
3. The technical requirements are the same as for long essays as stipulated in the 'Guidelines for the assignment (long essay)' in your Study Guide.
4. Make sure you number your answers. Answers that are not numbered cannot be marked.
5. You have 7 days to prepare, answer and complete this exam. The exam paper will be released on 6 June 2020, and you have until 13 June 2020 (23:59) to submit your exam answers. All submissions, except if you made a prior arrangement with your lecturer, should be done via BlackBoard in Word document format.
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**getting hacked. Losing documents for one or other reason is not a legitimate excuse for not completing assessments on time.**

## **ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS:**

### **QUESTION 1:** **MARKS]**

**[TOTAL 25**

Discuss the Fourth Industrial Revolution noting its key elements and its implications for work organization and labour. Using examples and with reference to the literature, critically evaluate its pros and cons.

### **QUESTION 2:** **MARKS]**

**[TOTAL 25**

Discuss gender and gender-based oppression and exploitation at the workplace noting the different forms this can take. Use examples to explore and critically assess the usefulness of the theory of intersectionality in the struggle against patriarchy.

### **QUESTION 3:** **MARKS]**

**[TOTAL 25**

Discuss the social and political factors that shaped the history of the South African trade union movement from its emergence in the 1973 Durban strike wave to its crossroads in the Marikana massacre. Evaluate the debates about the intersection of race and class, nationalism and socialism, in this historical development noting lessons for the future of the labour movement.

### **QUESTION 4:** **MARKS]**

**[TOTAL 25**

Discuss the extent to which the 'mineral-energy complex' has shaped the use of labour and energy resources in South Africa and the implications for the environment and human well-being. Use examples to explore how trade unionists and climate justice activists have used the concept of a 'just transition' in the call to change from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.

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