



UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

COURSE: SOCIOLOGY 3A
COURSE CODES: SOS3A11 / SOC3AA3

TIME: 72 Hours
MARKS: 50

JUNE ASSESSMENT: MAIN EXAM 2021

PAPER:
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS

EXAMINERS:

1. DR D DU TOIT (UJ)
2. PROF K DE WET (UFS)

THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF FOUR [4] PAGES

INSTRUCTIONS:

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

1. The exam paper consists of section A and section B. Section A consists of question 1 and question 2. Complete one question. Section B consists of question 3 and question 4. Complete one question.
2. Bulleted answers will not be marked. Write full sentences and include examples where relevant.
3. In your discussions, do not repeat any of the statements which form part of the questions.
4. Make sure you number your answers. Answers that are not numbered cannot be marked.
5. The exam paper will be released on the 12th of June 2021 and you need to submit on the 15th of June 2021 (23h59). All submissions, except if you made a prior arrangement with your lecturer, will be done via BlackBoard in Word document format.
6. 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.

7. All submissions must include an assignment cover page with your student details included. Please include your name, surname, and student number.
8. The exam link will be shared via a Blackboard announcement on 12th of June 2021 at the start time of the exam session/period.
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. Apologies such as 'my internet dropped the connection' will not be accepted.
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.

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS

SECTION A [25 MARKS]

ANSWER EITHER QUESTION 1 OR QUESTION 2:

QUESTION 1:

The National Research Foundation (NRF) has asked you to conduct research on the experiences of Sociology students enrolled at UJ and their experiences of online learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. This study aims to understand how five male and five female students experience learning online, what challenges they experience, and how they overcome them. In your research, you need to include the following:

- a) Critically explain why a qualitative methodological approach is appropriate for this study. [7]
- b) Explain how you will select five male and five female Sociology students from UJ utilising a non-probability sampling technique. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of the chosen sampling method and how you will overcome these challenges. [6]
- c) Explain why a semi-structured interview to collect data is appropriate and how you will analyse the data, considering that you need to adhere to the safety measures of the Covid-19 protocols? Use examples to substantiate your answer. [7]
- d) Explain how you will ensure this study fulfils all the ethical requirements of a sociological sound research project. Use examples to substantiate your answer. [5]

or

QUESTION 2:

There has been an increase in female students who graduate with an Honours degree in Sociology from UJ. The study aims to explore the views of 10 students who have graduated with an Honours degree in Sociology on why they have studied Sociology, what skills they have gained during their studies, and what type of jobs they get after graduating. In your research, you need to include the following:

- a) Critically explain why a qualitative methodological approach is appropriate for this study. [7]
- b) Explain how you will select 10 female students from UJ utilising a non-probability sampling technique. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the chosen sampling method, and how you will overcome these challenges. [6]
- c) Explain why a structured interview to data collection is appropriate and how you will analyse the data, considering that you need to adhere to the safety measures of the Covid-19 protocols? Use examples to substantiate your answer. [7]
- d) Explain the difference between confidentiality and anonymity. How would you ensure confidentiality in a qualitative study? Give examples to substantiate your answer. [5]

SECTION B [25 MARKS]

ANSWER EITHER QUESTION 3 OR QUESTION 4:

QUESTION 3:

You are planning a research project where you investigate binge drinking of alcohol among UJ undergraduate Sociology students. The study aims to investigate what factors contribute to binge drinking. In your research, you need to include the following:

- a) Critically explain why a quantitative methodological approach is appropriate for this study. [7]
- b) You need to select at least 100 students to participate in your study. Explain what probability sampling technique you will use and how. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of the chosen sampling method and how you will overcome these challenges. [6]
- c) Explain how you will implement an online survey questionnaire to collect data. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of online surveys. Use examples to substantiate your answer. [7]
- (d) Critically explain the typical challenges of online survey questionnaires and strategies to overcome these issues. Use examples. [5]

or

QUESTION 4

You are planning a research project where you investigate UJ undergraduate Sociology students' perceptions of tattoos. In your research, you need to include the following:

- a) Critically explain why a quantitative methodological approach is appropriate for this study. [7]
- b) You need to select at least 150 students to participate in your study. Explain what probability sampling technique you will use and how. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of the chosen sampling method and how you will overcome these challenges. [6]
- c) Explain how you will implement an online survey questionnaire to collect data. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of online surveys. Use examples to substantiate your answer. [7]
- (d) Add a brief cover/invitation letter for your research. Use examples to substantiate your answer. [5]

SECTION A + B: TOTAL = 50 MARKS

