

## **Fourth Semester MA Sociology (Private Registration)**

### **Multiple Choice Questions**

#### **SG010403 PROJECT PLANNING and Management**

- 1) Which of the following requirements for a dissertation may depend on your institution?
  - a) Whether an abstract should be included
  - b) The format for referencing
  - c) The word limit
  - d) All of the above
  
- 2) The role of a project supervisor is to:
  - a) Make sure you keep to your schedule and deadlines
  - b) Provide intellectual support, guidance and critical feedback
  - c) Negotiate access to the research setting on the student's behalf
  - d) Give you a reading list
  
- 3) You can manage your time and resources best, by:
  - a) Working out a timetable
  - b) Finding out what resources are readily available to you
  - c) Calculating a budget for likely expenditure
  - d) All of the above
  
- 4) What did Marx (1997) mean when he suggested that "intellectual puzzles and contradictions" can be a possible source of research questions?
  - a) The researcher may feel that there is a contradiction in the literature, presenting a "puzzle" to be solved
  - b) Students can develop their IQ levels by attempting to solve intellectual puzzles
  - c) Unless you can find a logical contradiction, you have no basis for conducting research
  - d) All of life is a puzzle, so any aspect of life can be researched
  
- 5) How can you tell if your research questions are really good?
  - a) If they guide your literature search
  - b) If they are linked together to help you construct a coherent argument
  - c) If they force you to narrow the scope of your research
  - d) All of the above

6. Which of the following should be included in a research proposal?
- a) Your academic status and experience
  - b) The difficulties you encountered with your previous reading on the topic
  - c) Your choice of research methods and reasons for choosing them
  - d) All of the above
- 7) Which of the following should you think about when preparing your research?
- a) Your sample frame and sampling strategy
  - b) The ethical issues that might arise
  - c) Negotiating access to the setting
  - d) All of the above
- 8) Why is it helpful to keep a research diary or log book while you are conducting your project?
- a) To give you something to do in the early stages of your research when nothing is happening
  - b) Because funding councils generally demand to see written evidence that you were working every day during the period of the research
  - c) To keep a record of what you did and what happened throughout the research process
  - d) It can be added to your dissertation to ensure that you reach the required word limit
- 9) What can you do to ensure your physical safety during your research?
- a) Be alert to the possibility of exposure to danger
  - b) Avoid interviewing alone in the respondent's residence
  - c) Make sure someone knows where you are and how you can contact them in an emergency
  - d) All of the above
- 10) What practical steps can you take before you actually start your research?
- a) Find out exactly what your institution's requirements are for a dissertation
  - b) Make sure you are familiar with the hardware and software you plan to use
  - c) Apply for clearance of your project through an ethics committee
  - d) All of the above
- 11) When planning to do social research, it is better to:
- a) Approach the topic with an open mind
  - b) Do a pilot study before getting stuck into it
  - c) Be familiar with the literature on the topic

- d) Forget about theory because this is a very practical undertaking can't have one without the other

12. We review the relevant literature to know:

- a) What is already known about the topic
- b) What concepts and theories have been applied to the topic
- c) Who are the key contributors to the topic
- d) All of the above

13. A deductive theory is one that:

- a) Allows theory to emerge out of the data
- b) Involves testing an explicitly defined hypothesis
- c) Allows for findings to feed back into the stock of knowledge
- d) Uses qualitative methods whenever possible

14. What does 'sampling cases' mean?

- a) Sampling using a sampling frame
- b) Identifying people who are suitable for research
- c) Literally, the researcher's brief-case
- d) Sampling people, newspapers, television programmes etc.

15. Which of the following is not a data-collection method?

- a) Research questions
- b) Unstructured interviewing
- c) Postal survey questionnaires
- d) Participant observation

16. Why is data analysis concerned with data reduction?

- a) Because far too much data is collected than is required
- b) Because we need to make sense of the data
- c) Because of the repetitions in answers to questionnaires
- d) Because the sample size has been exceeded

17. The core ingredients of a dissertation are:

- a) Introduction; Data collection; Data analysis; Conclusions and recommendations.
- b) Executive summary; Literature review; Data gathered; Conclusions; Bibliography.
- c) Research plan; Research data; Analysis; References.
- d) Introduction; Literature review; Research methods; Results; Discussion; Conclusion.

18. Which of the following is a component of ethnographic research?
- a) Being immersed in a social group or setting
  - b) Participant observation, interviews, and/or documentary analysis
  - c) A written account of an ethnographic study
  - d) All of the above
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31) The core ingredients of a dissertation are:

- a) Introduction; Data collection; Data analysis; Conclusions and recommendations.
- b) Executive summary; Literature review; Data gathered; Conclusions; Bibliography.
- c) Research plan; Research data; Analysis; References.
- d) Introduction; Literature review; Research methods; Results; Discussion; Conclusion.

32) Which of the following is a component of ethnographic research?

- a) Being immersed in a social group or setting
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33) What is one of the main disadvantages of using the covert role in ethnography?

- a) It can be hard to gain access to the social group
- b) It is difficult to take notes without arousing suspicion
- c) The problem of reactivity: people may change their behaviour if they know they are being observed
- d) It is usually too time consuming and expensive to be a realistic option

34 ). What is a key informant?

- a) A group member who helps the ethnographer gain access to relevant people/events
- b) A senior level member of the organisation who refuses to allow researchers into it
- c) A participant who appears to be helpful but then blows the researcher's cover
- d) Someone who cuts keys to help the ethnographer gain access to a building

35) What the name of the role adopted by an ethnographer who joins in with the group's activities But admits to being a researcher?

- a) Complete participant
- b) Participant-as-observer
- c) Observer-as-participant
- d) Complete observer

36 ) Is it okay to break the law in order to maintain a "cover"?

- a) Yes, provided it is not very serious

- b) No, never under any circumstances
- c) Yes, because otherwise data on criminal activity would never come to light
- d) Yes, provided it doesn't cause physical harm to someone

37) What is the difference between "scratch notes" and "full field notes"?

- a) Scratch notes are just key words and phrases, rather than lengthy descriptions
- b) Full field notes are quicker and easier to write than scratch notes
- c) Scratch notes are written at the end of the day rather than during key events
- d) Full field notes do not involve the researcher scratching their head while thinking

38) What are the two main types of data that can be used in visual ethnography?

- a) Positivist and interpretivist
- b) Qualitative and quantitative
- c) Nominal and ordinal
- d) Extant and research-research-driven

39) Which of the following makes qualitative interviewing distinct from structured interviewing?

- a) The procedure is less standardized
- b) "Rambling" off the topic is not a problem
- c) The researcher seeks rich, detailed answers
- d) All of the above

40) Which of the following is not a type of qualitative interview?

- a) Unstructured interview
- b) Oral history interview
- c) Structured interview
- d) Focus group interview

41) Why is it helpful to prepare an interview guide before conducting semi-structured interviews?

- a) So that the data from different interviewees will be comparable and relevant to your research questions
- b) So that you can calculate the statistical significance of the results
- c) In order to allow participants complete control over the topics they discuss
- d) To make the sample more representative

42) What is a "probing question"?

- a) One that inquires about a sensitive or deeply personal issue
- b) One that encourages the interviewee to say more about a topic
- c) One that asks indirectly about people's opinions
- d) One that moves the conversation on to another topic

43 ) What can you do to reduce the time consuming nature of transcribing interviews?

- a) Use a transcribing machine
- b) Employ someone to transcribe for you
- c) Transcribe only selected parts of the interviews
- d) All of the above

44) Which of the following is not a type of life story?

- a) Naturalistic life stories
- b) Researched life stories
- c) True life stories
- d) Reflexive and recursive life stories

45). Which of the following is an advantage of qualitative interviewing relative to participant Observation?

- a) It allows you to find out about issues that are resistant to observation
- b) It is more biased and value-laden
- c) It is more likely to create reactive effects
- d) None of the above

46 ) Which of the following is a disadvantage of qualitative interviewing relative to participant Observation?

- a) It has a more specific focus
- b) It is more ethically dubious, in terms of obtaining informed consent
- c) It may not provide access to deviant or hidden activities
- d) It does not allow participants to reconstruct their life events

47) The introductory section of a research report should aim to:

- a) Identify the specific focus of the study
- b) Provide a rationale for the dissertation, or article
- c) Grab the reader's attention
- d) Grab the reader's attention

48) What is the purpose of the conclusion in a research report?



- a) It explains how concepts were operationally defined and measured
- b) It contains a useful review of the relevant literature
- c) It outlines the methodological procedures that were employed
- d) It summarizes the key findings in relation to the research questions

49) Which of the following is not normally included in a written account of qualitative research?

- a) An introduction, locating the research in its theoretical context
- b) An explanation of the design of the study
- c) A discussion of the main findings in relation to the research questions
- d) A decision to accept or reject the hypothesis

50) Before submitting your dissertation, you should ensure that:

- a) Your writing is free of sexist, racist and disablist language
- b) Other people have read your final draft
- c) You have proofread it thoroughly
- d) All of the above

51) Probability sampling is rarely used in qualitative research because:

- a) Qualitative researchers are not trained in statistics
- b) It is very old-fashioned
- c) It is often not feasible
- d) Research questions are more important than sampling

52) The two levels of sampling used by Savage et al. (2005) for the Manchester study were:

- a) Random and purposive
- b) Convenience and snowball
- c) Statistical and non-statistical
- d) Contexts and participants

53) Which of the following is not a type of purposive sampling?

- a) Probability sampling
- b) Deviant case sampling
- c) Theoretical sampling
- d) Snowball sampling

54) The minimum sample size for qualitative interviewing is:

- a) 30
- b) 31
- c) 60
- d) It's hard to say

55) Why is an ethnographic study unlikely to use a probability sample?

- a) Because the aim of understanding is more important than that of generalization
- b) Because the researcher cannot control who is willing to talk to them
- c) Because it is difficult to identify a sampling frame
- d) All of the above

56) Apart from people, what else can purposive sampling be used for?

- a) Documents
- b) Timing of events
- c) Context
- d) All of the above

57). What can be generalized from a purposive sample?

- a) That the findings are true for broadly similar cases
- b) That the findings are true for the entire population
- c) That the opposite is true for people who are the opposite of those in the sample
- d) That purposive sampling is better than probability sampling

58). Which of the following is a problem associated with survey research?

- a) The problem of objectivity
- b) The problem of "going native"
- c) The problem of omission
- d) The problem of robustness

59) . The key advantage of structured observation over survey research is that:

- a) It does not rely on the researcher's ability to take notes
- b) The researcher is immersed as a participant in the field they are studying
- c) It does not impose any expectations of behaviour on the respondents
- d) It allows you to observe people's behaviour directly

60) It may not be possible to use a probability sample to observe behaviour in public places because:

- a) The findings of such studies are not intended to have external validity
- b) It is not feasible to construct a sampling frame of interactions
- c) It is difficult to gain access to such social settings
- d) Researchers prefer not to use random samples whenever possible

61) Which of the following is not a type of sampling used in structured observation?

- a) Focal sampling
- b) Scan sampling
- c) Emotional sampling
- d) Behaviour sampling

62) One of the criticisms often levelled at structured observation is that:

- a) It does not allow us to impose any framework on the social setting
- b) It only generates a small amount of data
- c) It is unethical to observe people without an observation schedule
- d) It does not allow us to understand the intentions behind behaviour

63) What is a research design?

- a) A way of conducting research that is not grounded in theory
- b) The choice between using qualitative or quantitative methods
- c) The style in which you present your research findings, e.g. a graph
- d) A framework for every stage of the collection and analysis of data

64) . If a study is “reliable”, this means that:

- a) It was conducted by a reputable researcher who can be trusted
- b) The measures devised for concepts are stable on different occasions
- c) The findings can be generalized to other social settings
- d) The methods are stated clearly enough for the research to be replicated

65) In an experimental design, the dependent variable is:

- a) The one that is not manipulated and in which any changes are observed
- b) The one that is manipulated in order to observe any effects on the other
- c) A measure of the extent to which personal values affect research
- d) An ambiguous concept whose meaning depends on how it is defined

### Answer key

1. D	16. B	31. D	46. C	61. C
2. B.	17. D	32. D	47. D	62. D
3. D.	18. D	33. B	48. D	63. D
4. A.	19. D	34. A	49. D	64. B
5. D.	20. B	35. B	50. D	65. A
6. C	21. D	36. B	51. C	
7. D	22. A	37. A	52. D	
8. C	23. B	38. D	53. A	
9. D	24. D	39. D	54. D	
10. D	25. D	40. A	55. D	
11. C	26. D	41. B	56. D	
12. D	27. B	42. D	57. A	
13. B	28. D	43. C	58. C	
14. D	29. A	44. C	59. D	
15. A	30. B	45. A	60. B	