

4th Semester Model MCQ Fourth paper

1. 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

Answer: C

2. 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

Answer: D

3. 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

Answer: B

4. 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.

Answer: D

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

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

Answer: A

6. 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

Answer: B

7. 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.

Answer: D

8. 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

Answer: D

9. 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

Answer: B

10. 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

Answer: A

11. What is 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

Answer: B

12. 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

Answer: B

13. 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

Answer: A

14. 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-driven

Answer: D

15. 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

Answer: D

16. 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
- Answer: C

17. 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
- Answer: A

18. 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
- Answer: B

19. 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
- Answer: D

20. 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
- Answer: C

21. 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
- Answer: A

22. 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
- Answer: C

23. 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) All of the above
- Answer: D

24. 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

Answer: D

25. 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

Answer: D

26. 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

Answer: D

27. 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

Answer: C

28. 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

Answer: D

29. Which of the following is not a type of purposive sampling?

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

Answer: A

30. The minimum sample size for qualitative interviewing is:

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

Answer: D

31. 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

Answer: D

32. Apart from people, what else can purposive sampling be used for?

- a) Documents
- b) Timing of events
- c) Context

d) All of the above Answer: D

33. 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 Answer: A

34. 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 Answer: C

35. 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 Answer: D

36. 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 Answer: B

37. 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 Answer: C

38. 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 Answer: D

39. 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 Answer: D

40. 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 Answer: B

41. 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: A
42. What is a cross-sectional design?
a) A study of one particular section of society, e.g. the middle classes
b) One that is devised when the researcher is in a bad mood
c) The collection of data from more than one case at one moment in time
d) A comparison of two or more variables over a long period of time Answer: C
43. Cross cultural studies are an example of:
a) Case study design
b) Comparative design
c) Experimental design
d) Longitudinal design Answer: B
44. What is a 'grand theory'?
a) One that was proposed by one of the major theorists in the sociological tradition
b) One that is highly abstract and makes broad generalizations about the social world
c) An intermediate level explanation of observed regularities
d) A particularly satisfactory theory that makes the researcher feel happy Answer: B
45. An inductive theory is one that:
a) Involves testing an explicitly defined hypothesis
b) Does not allow for findings to feed back into the stock of knowledge
c) Uses quantitative methods whenever possible
d) Allows theory to emerge out of the data Answer: D
46. The qualitative research strategy places a value on:
a) Using numbers, measurements and statistical techniques
b) Generating theories through inductive research about social meanings
c) Conducting research that is of a very high quality
d) All of the above Answer: B
47. An important practical issue to consider when designing a research project is:
a) Which theoretical perspective you find most interesting
b) Whether or not you have time to retille the bathroom first
c) How much time and money you have to conduct the research
d) Which colour of ring binder to present your work in Answer: C
48. 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 Answer: D

49. 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
- Answer: D
50. 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
- Answer: C
51. 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
- Answer: D
52. 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
- Answer: D
53. Why do you need to review the existing literature?
- a) To make sure you have a long list of references
 - b) Because without it, you could never reach the required word-count
 - c) To find out what is already known about your area of interest
 - d) To help in your general studying
- Answer: C
54. A systematic literature review is:
- a) One which starts in your own library, then goes to on-line databases and, finally, to the internet
 - b) A replicable, scientific and transparent process
 - c) One which gives equal attention to the principal contributors to the area
 - d) A responsible, professional process of time-management for research
- Answer: B
55. What is the first stage of a systematic review?
- a) Assess the relevance of each study to the research question(s)
 - b) Define the purpose and scope of the review
 - c) Appraise the quality of studies from the previous step
 - d) Survey all of the literature contained within a single library
- Answer: B
56. The term "secondary analysis" refers to the technique of:
- a) Conducting a study of seconds, minutes and other measures of time
 - b) Analysing your own data in two different ways
 - c) Analysing existing data that has been collected by another person or organization
 - d) Working part time on a project alongside other responsibilities
- Answer: C
57. Why might secondary analysis be a particularly useful method for students?
- a) It is relatively easy to do
 - b) It saves time and money

- c) It does not require any knowledge of statistics
 - d) It only requires a half-hearted effort
- Answer: B

58. Which of the following is not an advantage of secondary analysis?

- a) It immerses the researcher in the field they are studying
 - b) It tends to be based on high quality data
 - c) It provides an opportunity for longitudinal analysis
 - d) It allows you to study patterns and social trends over time
- Answer: A

59. The large samples used in national social surveys enable new researchers to:

- a) Avoid using probability sampling
 - b) Identify any bias in the question wording
 - c) Evaluate the inter-coder reliability of the data
 - d) Conduct subgroup analysis
- Answer: D

60. Which of the following is not a disadvantage of using secondary analysis?

- a) The researcher's lack of familiarity with the data
 - b) It is a relatively expensive and time consuming process
 - c) Hierarchical datasets can be very confusing
 - d) The researcher has no control over the quality of the data
- Answer: B