

Enrollment Number:

Name:

MODEL QUESTION PAPER FOR MA DEGREE EXAMINATIONS, 2024

Second Semester

M21UC01AC – Foundational Skills for Research and Writing

(2023 January admissions)

THIS IS AN OPEN BOOK EXAM. YOU MAY REFER THE SELF-LEARNING MATERIAL ISSUED TO YOU BY SGOU FOR THE COURSE M21UC01AC.

Please note that no separate time is allotted for referring to the SLM.

Answer all questions either in English or Malayalam

Time: 3 Hours

Max Marks: 70

Section A

Answer any five of the following questions in half a page each. Each question carries 4 marks.

1. Consider the following definition of Research:

Research is defined as the creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies and understandings. This could include synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it leads to new and creative outcomes.

Comment on this definition based on your understanding of research. What can be added to this definition to make it better?

2. A friend of you who is an Engineer tells you that eating one Thulasi leaf a day will protect you from Corona. She tells that she has practiced it and found it effective. As a critical thinker, how will you react?
3. Suggest some areas of research that will contribute to societal progress and development of India.
4. A food company wants to assess the quality of their newly launched product. Briefly explain how can they do this using both qualitative and quantitative strategies.
5. Citing example of research you plan to do, explain how you can identify the knowledge gap.
6. Consider the following annotated bibliography (Sentences are numbered for ease of referencing in your answer).

Rajan S., 'Employee turnover and job performance: monitoring the influences of salary growth and promotion', Journal of Psychology, vol 113, no.1, pp. 56-64.:

(i) In this article author reviews the influences of pay and job opportunities in respect to job performance, turnover rates and employee motivation. (ii) The author uses data gained through organisational surveys of companies in Kochi to try to identify the main causes of employee turnover and whether it is linked to salary growth. (iii) The research focuses on assessing a range of pay structures such as pay for performance and organisational reward schemes. (iv) The article is useful to my research topic, as author suggests that there are numerous reasons for employee

turnover and variances in employee motivation and performance. (v) The main limitation of the article is that the survey sample was restricted to mid-level management, thus the author indicates that further, more extensive, research needs to be undertaken to develop a more in-depth understanding of employee turnover and job performance.

Explain the different parts of this annotation such as methodology, critical evaluation etc.
You may refer to sentences by their numberings)

7. In regions where a disaster occurs, (a) the task force seek information from the local community initially and proceed for further rescue measures. (b) the task force proceeds with the rescue measures in a scientific manner depending upon the guidelines of the experts. Which among the two options given above is an informal inquiry? Briefly compare informal and formal methods.
8. Mary wishes to conduct a research on parental approach towards their children in Kerala in the present scenario. What would be the disadvantages if she proceeds with her research without a literature review?
9. Consider the following abstract. Suggest a suitable title for this article and also 4 keywords:
We have conducted a survey that shows that most people think of science as technology and engineering (life-saving drugs, computers, space exploration, and so on). This was, in fact, the promise of the founders of modern science in the 17th century. We argue that social and behavioural sciences have also produced technologies and engineering that dominate our everyday lives. These include polling, marketing, management, insurance, and public health programs.
10. Give your own example of ethical dilemma in research (other than ones discussed in SLM)

(4X5=20)

Section B

Answer any five of the following questions. Each question carries 6 marks.

11. Prepare a set of 6 questions to be asked to the people affected with natural disaster in order to understand the range of their mental trauma
12. Suppose you are assigned to conduct research on the impact of mass media on female stereotyping. In what ways would your research contribute to studies on women in India?
13. 'For the advancement of knowledge and understanding quality research data is essential' – Substantiate.
14. Remya, a student at SGOU, is assigned to research the causes of infant mortality among tribal communities in Attappady, Kerala. She needs your help in identifying her primary and secondary research methods. How would you help her distinguish between the types of primary and secondary research she should conduct?
15. "Viewing a film on abusive use of drugs change student attitude to drug use". What research design can be used to conduct this study? Point out some of the elements of the research design.
16. Point out errors (irrespective of the kind of style), if any, in each of the following 5 entries in a bibliography

- a. Cantor, Norman F, *Inventing the Middle Ages*. New York: Harper Perennial.
- b. Hen, Y.; Innes, M., eds. (2000). *The Uses of the Past in the Early Middle Ages*.
- c. Little, L. K.; Rosenwein, B. H., eds. (1998). Blackwell Publishing.
- d. *Historiography in the Middle Ages*. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers.
- e. Murray, A. C. ed. (1998). *After Rome's Fall. Narrators and Sources of Early Medieval History*. Toronto: University of Toronto.

17. If you are publishing a research work, which referencing style do you prefer to include? Why?

(6X5=30)

Section C

Answer any one of the following questions in four pages each. Each question carries 20 marks.

18. Consider a problem in your locality or in your direct experience. Prepare a synopsis to conduct a research on the same. While the synopsis can be very brief, include all sections required in a formal synopsis.

19. (a) Plagiarism is a research misconduct. Consider the following situation. The first paragraph is an original source. The second one is a paragraph written by a student in her dissertation. Do you consider this a case of plagiarism? Explain your answer.

Original source: The concern with 'cultures' which stimulated the ethnoarchaeological work grew out of a widespread disillusion in prehistoric archaeology with the value of describing and defining cultural entities and with the possibilities of interpreting them. It had become clear that cultures did not always equal ethnic units. The main alternative to this idea had come from processual and behavioural archaeology with the notion that areas of cultural similarity reflected areas of high social interaction (Hodder 1982 p. 11). *Hodder, I. 1982 Symbols in Action Cambridge: Cambridge University Press*

Student Writing: Defining the extent and nature of cultural groups in the past was very important to archaeologists working at the beginning of the 20th century, but by the 1950s it had become clear that cultures did not always equal ethnic units. The main alternative to this idea had come from processual and behavioural archaeology, which suggested that similarities in material culture did not necessarily identify a cultural group (Hodder 1982). *Hodder, I. 1982 Symbols in Action Cambridge: Cambridge University Press*

(b) Raising questions and forming hypothesis are central to research process. Consider the phenomenon of student migration from Kerala to countries like Canada, Ireland, Germany etc. Form a hypothesis about the reasons for this phenomenon. Also raise 5 questions that will enrich the research investigation.

(20X1=20)

QP CODE

T5091

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MA DEGREE EXAMINATIONS, MAY 2024
Second Semester
Common for MA History and MA Sociology
M21UC01AC – Foundational Skills for Research and Writing
(2023 January admissions)

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Answer all questions either in English or Malayalam

Time: 3 Hours

Max Marks: 70

Section A

Answer any five of the following questions in half a page each. Each question carries 4 marks.

1. Research is the systematic inquiry in any field of knowledge to explore a subject. Is systematic inquiry the only basic feature? Comment. What more aspects can you add based on your understanding of Research?
2. Your topic of research is Socio-Economic Status of Employees in Handloom Industry. How can you make this study interdisciplinary?
3. Cite both the following bibliography in APA Style and MLA Style:
 - a. Doris Merkl M. & Niamh Brennan M, 2007 Discretionary Disclosure Strategies in Corporate Narratives: Incremental Information or Impression Management?. Journal of Accounting Literature 27,116-196
 - b. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azl079>, Levi M. The media construction of financial white-collar crimes. British Journal of Criminology 46(6), 1037–1057 (2006)
4. Comment on the significance of the topic “The Effect of OTT platforms (like Netflix, Hotstar) on theatre going public”.
5. Nita and Anita are conducting research for finding out reasons for a new type of fever. Name the type of research they are conducting. Also explain its features.
6. How will you check the reliability of a data source?

7. Do you think research on gender stereotyping and adolescence will bring about an impact in the society? Explain.
8. Explain the difference between primary and secondary data based on a research topic of your choice.
9. Assess the structure of the passage given below (whether this text meets the quality in structure) and write a summary in 5 sentences:

The India of the early twenty-first century is, therefore, a substantially different entity from that described and discussed in the first eight chapters of this book. Although the term the Indian subcontinent 'retains a vestigial usage, particularly in Britain, it is more common these days to speak, more neutrally, of South Asia 'and of the South Asians' for whom it is, or ancestrally was, home in the popular imagination at least, India has come less to define a civilization than to demarcate a state. But with the ever-growing distance from the colonial past and with the creation of an independent Bangladesh in 1971 (the two successor states thus transmuted into three, it has become increasingly difficult to maintain the idea of an India that still residually occupies the same geographical arena and socio-cultural space as once occupied by the India of the Buddha and Ashoka, the Guptas, the Cholas, the Mughals and the British, or even that so ardently aspired to by the Indian nationalist movement. We now live with another India.

10. Prepare an abstract including three key words on the topic "online purchasing behaviour of youngsters in Kerala"

(4X5=20)

Section B

Answer any five of the following questions in maximum one page. Each question carries 6 marks.

11. The research topic of Mr Rahul is "A study on E-Banking services provided by SBI in Kerala". Develop three research questions related to this topic.
12. "Smoking is injurious to health. Smoking causes cancer." This smoking disclaimer intends to warn about the harmful effects of smoking to the audience. Briefly explain the research steps you would follow to conduct a study on the impact of this disclaimer amongst the young audiences aged 18-25.
13. How would you identify the research gap in the topic "Customer Satisfaction of Electric Vehicles in Kerala"?
14. Both formal and informal inquiry plays a crucial role in research. Ms Renuka is conducting research on the topic "Work Life Balance of Women Employees in Textile Shops in Kerala". Suggest how formal and informal inquiry is conducted on this topic.

QP CODE
T5091

15. Mr. Anubhav is conducting research on the topic “Health Benefits of Organic Vegetables”. Develop three open ended questions for this topic.
16. Ms. Reshmi wants to conduct research in the area Influence of AI in Education. But adequate literature is not available in this area. What are the difficulties she might face due to the lack of literature?
17. Explain different parts of this annotation.
Sangiumvibool, P & Chonglertham, S. (2016). Performance based budgeting for continuing and lifelong education services: The Thai higher education perspective. *Journal of Higher Education Policy and Management*, 39 (1); 58 – 74.

Sangiumvibool, P & Chonglertham, S. (2016) analyzed the importance of performance-based budgeting. The study focused on the factors influencing the budgetary decision-making process. The author explained that the Thai government had implemented budget reforms in higher education sector in two different phases. The first phase is a non-financial phase and the second phase is a financial phase. As part of these reforms, the Thai government had enforced performance – based budgeting system. Under the new budgeting system, the administrators had to consider the budget expenditure and should ensure that they are consistent with the university’s objective. The factors identified for the study were student head count, educational projects and programs, number of faculty, graduate students and administrative staff. The study found that student head count, economic conditions or political influence had no direct influence on Thai universities’ budgetary expenditure, but the public university had to rely on government funding. The author suggested that the implementation of performance-based budgeting system should reduce the managerial costs on budgetary revision process during a year.

(6X5=30)

Section C

Answer any one of the following questions in four pages. Each question carries 20 marks.

18. Prepare a synopsis for research related to a topic of contemporary relevance in Kerala. Critically reflect on your synopsis highlighting some of the basic features of the synopsis.
19. *Ethics in research refers to the principles and standards that guide researchers in conducting their work responsibly and with integrity.*
In research on Mercy Killing (the practice of ending a patient’s life in order to relieve pain and suffering) what do you think the ethical concerns and pitfalls will be?

(20X1=20)