Question 1: [17]

Define each of the following terms:

1.1   Epistemology   (2)

Study of the nature and origins of knowledge. The word literally means the study of logic of truthful knowledge

1.2   Reliability   (3)

The quality of measurement method that suggests that the same data would have been collected each time in repeated observataions of the same phenomenon.

1.3   Validity   (2)

The answer to the question whether the instrument that is used, measures what it is supposed to measure. Measure that accurately reflects the concept it is intended to measure

1.4   Face validity   (3)

The quality of an indicator that makes it seems a reasonable measure of some variable. That the frequency of church attendance is some indication of a person's religiosity seems to make sense without a lot of explanation. It has face validity

1.5   Hypothesis   (2)

Preliminary answer to the research problem. An expectation about the nature of things derived from a theory. Statement of something that ought to be observed in real world if the theory is correct.

1.6   Dependent variable   (2)

Is the variable on which the effect of the independent variable is directed.

1.7   Independent variable   (3)

Is the 'causal' variable that is manipulated by the researcher to determine the possible effect thereof on another variable (dependent variable)

Question 2: [6]

Discuss the three world's framework and the different forms of knowledge in each world

World 1: World of everyday life - The world of ordinary people; Consists of multiple worlds; Knowledge – pragmatic interest in coping

World 2: World of science - The world of science and scientific research; The epistemic imperative – the search for truthful knowledge

World 3: World of meta-science - Reflections on the nature of science; Critical interest in improving scientific practice

Question 3: [3]

List the three research paradigms
1. Qualitative
2. Quantitative
3. Participatory Action Research (PAR)

Question 4: [12]

List the 6 types of research questions and link its question with its most appropriate design
1. Descriptive – Surveys, Case studies, PAR
2. Exploratory - Exploratory surveys & In-depth case studies, PAR
3. Predictive - Experimental
4. Historical - Cross-sectional studies
5. Causal - Experimental & field-experimental studies
6. Evaluative – evaluation studiess

Question 5: [12]

The unit of analysis is the things we examine to construct a summary description of all such units

5.1   List the six (6) type of units of analysis commonly used in social science   (6)
7. Individuals
8. Groups
9. Organizations & institutions
10. Social artifact/cultural objects

11.   Social actions

12.   Interventions

5.2   Discuss the points of focus within the unit of analysis and give examples   (6)

1.<u>Characteristics</u>

•Individuals - Gender, age, height, marital status, deformities, region of origin, or hearing ability

•Groups & Organisations – size, structure, location & aggregated descriptions of their members

•Artefacts – size, colour, weight,characteristics of people associating with them – social events; where they occur what type of people involved, etc.

2.<u>Orientations</u>

•Individuals – attitudes, beliefs, values, personality traits, prejudices, religious, political, intellectual, superstitious

•Social Groups – purposes, policies, regulations/procedures

3.<u>Actions</u>

•Observe directly or second-hand accounts of actions i.e. voting

Question 5:   [20]

Describe Mouton's **<u>ProDEC model</u>** with regard to each step that needs to be followed during the research process, and **<u>the questions</u>** that you as the researcher <u>need to ask yourself</u> when designing a research study with the ProDEC model <u>AND</u> make special reference to the different **types of validity** to be ensured for during each step.

Pro = Process

D = design

E = Evidence

C = Conclusion

1.   <u>Idea</u>

Topic; what is it that I want to know about something in world 1

2.   <u>Research problem/question – Theoretical Validity</u>

Defining the topic into problem/question for world 2; what does the world 2 say about the problem & what is it I want to know about the topic (aims & objectives of my study? – size; angles of research being done; rationale; background; unit of analysis – who will give me the answer? Causal-,

correlational-, impact/outcome- (evaluative), descriptive-, exploratory question about the topic of enquiry

3. <u>Research design</u>

Choose most appropriate design – How will I best find the answer from my target group?; How many; what type of people needs to give me the answer for it to be plausible?; How will I best find the answer – observation, questionnaire, and/or interviews?

4. <u>Research process (research methodology) – Measurement / construct validity</u>

a) Sampling (how many people with which characteristics), - Representativeness

b) Which tools? – Questionnaire, observational schedule, interview schedule ; do I want to count/rate or understand/hear their opinion (qualitative and/or quantitative)

c) Collecting data with designed tools - reliability

d) Grouping and analysing data (coding/categorising) using statistics (SPSS) for quantitative data and categorising (ATLAS) (i.e. grounded theory) for qualitative data

5. <u>Research Conclusions – Inferential Validity</u>

Writing up the findings, what is the answer to my original question/aim of my study; to what extend is it plausible? (validity); reporting good and limitations of the study