

OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

SUMMER EXAMINATION 2001
BACHELOR OF NURSING DEGREE

RESEARCH METHODS 1
NU416

Professor Peter Bradshaw
Ms. Kathleen Murphy
Ms. Adeline Cooney
Ms. Dympna Casey

You are expected to answer a total of FIVE (5) questions, THREE (3) questions from Section A and TWO (2) questions from Section B. Use a separate answer book for each question. You are allowed to use a calculator.

Please note you are expected to support your answers by referring to relevant literature and examples from research studies where appropriate.

Time allowed: Three (3) hours

SECTION A
RESEARCH METHODS I (NU416)

This section is worth 80% of the total marks for this module. Please answer THREE questions from Section A. All questions carry an equal mark.

1. Write short notes on **TWO (2)** of the following
 - (a) Sampling (50%)
 - (b) Research Ethics (50%)
 - (c) Searching the literature (50%)
 - (d) Critiquing the literature (50%)

2. "All approaches to research embody a particular philosophical perspective on reality and on the ways in which knowledge can legitimately be gained from the world" (Sim and Wright, 2000 pp.7-8). Examine the meaning of this statement using examples to support your answer (100%)

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

3. Interviews differ in structure and purpose. Evaluate the usefulness of **two** (2) types or forms of interviews as methods of data collection. (100%)
4. (a) Explain the process of developing a research hypothesis (40%)
(b) Outline the criteria by which a research hypothesis can be judged (20%)
(c) It is proposed to carry out a quantitative research study investigating nurse-client interactions. The study will focus on nurses' initiation of conversation with clients. Develop a hypothesis for this study, providing a rationale for your decision. (20%)
(d) It is proposed to carry out a quantitative research study investigating the incidence of violence within psychiatric nursing. It is noted from the literature that there is a relationship between past history of violence and the likelihood of recurrent violent episodes. Develop a hypothesis for this study, providing a rationale for your decision. (20%)

SECTION B

BND 6 - RESEARCH METHODS II (NU 417)

This section is worth 40% of the total marks for this module. Please answer TWO questions from Section B. All questions carry an equal mark.

1. (a) Differentiate between validity and reliability in quantitative research design (40%)
(b) Discuss the concepts of credibility and trustworthiness and their application in qualitative research design. (60%)
2. Identify the research methodology you consider to be most appropriate for **TWO** of the following, providing a rationale for your answer. In your answers you are expected to outline the key characteristics of the methodologies you identify.
(a) A researcher intends to investigate if there is a relationship between absenteeism and nurses/midwives job satisfaction. (50%)
(b) An investigator is studying the effects of a new wound care product on wound healing. (50%)
(c) A researcher aims to describe the experience of parents caring for a mentally handicapped child at home. (50%)
3. Examine the potential of triangulation for investigating nursing/midwifery problems. (100%)

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

4. Please answer **BOTH** parts of this question.

Part One

A group of mothers are asked if they intend to breastfeed and are followed up when their babies are 3 months old. As a supportive environment is thought to influence breastfeeding, these women were also asked about their relationship with the father of the child. Many of those asked were not married to the fathers.

Data:

Group 1:	Breastfeeding:	20 married or cohabiting,	5 alone
Group 2:	Non breastfeeding:	12 married or cohabiting,	8 alone

- Draw a frequency distribution table of the data.
- What type (level) of data is this?
- What statistical test would you use to investigate if there are any differences between the groups?
- If you found that there was a significant difference at the .05 level, what would this mean to you?

Part 2

Researchers also decided to investigate whether there were any significant age differences between the mothers who were breastfeeding and those who were not.

Group 1: (Breastfeeding)

24 24 26 27 28 31 31 31 32 32 32 32 33 33 33 34 34 35 35 35 36 36 37 37 38

Group 2: (Non breastfeeding)

16 18 17 19 19 20 21 22 23 23 24 24 25 25 25 25 26 27 30 40

- Calculate the mean, mode and median ages for **Group 1**. (Show how you calculate these).
- Which of these is most appropriate for **Group 1**? Why?
- What measure of dispersion is most appropriate for **Group 1**?
- Calculate the mean, mode and median for group 2. (Show how you calculate these).
- Which of these is most appropriate for **Group 2**?
- What measure of dispersion is most appropriate for **Group 2**?
- What statistical test would you use to compare the mean ages of these two groups of mothers?
- If you found that there was a significant difference at the .01 level, what would this mean?

END