

Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh
National University of Ireland, Galway

GX 2692 - 60

Semester 2 Summer Examinations, 2003/2004
Front Page Template

Exam Code(s)	2BA1, IOA1, IEM1
Exam(s)	2nd Arts
Module Code(s)	SP220
Module(s)	Methods for Social & Political Science
Paper No.	
Repeat Paper	Special Paper
External Examiner(s)	Professor Richard Jenkins
Internal Examiner(s)	Professor Chris Curtin, Dr. Anne Byrne, Mr. Donal Igoe and Ms. Henrike Rau

Instructions:

Answer FOUR questions in all: Two from Section A and
Two from Section B.
PLEASE USE A SEPARATE ANSWER BOOK FOR
EACH SECTION

Duration	2hs
No. of Answer books	2

Requirements:

Handout	
MCQ	
Statistical Tables	
Graph Paper	
Log Graph Paper	
Other Material	

No. of Pages	3
Department(s)	Political Science & Sociology

SP220 Methods for Social and Political Science

Section A: Qualitative. Answer two questions from this section

Please keep your answers short and to the point. You may not reuse material from one answer in another answer.

1. Discuss the main differences between qualitative and quantitative social research. Is it always possible to clearly distinguish between these two strands of research methodology?

EITHER

2. Outline the advantages and disadvantages of triangulation.

OR

3. How does choice of research methods affect the interpretation and results of a research investigation?
4. Compare and contrast covert and overt participant observation.
5. Research participants are rarely involved in research planning, design, analysis or outcomes. Discuss the benefits and limitations of democratising the research process.
6. Describe two methods of qualitative data analysis.
7. "The social researcher has the right to study anything and anybody using whatever means necessary". Discuss the various stances adopted by researchers regarding ethical guidelines.
8. Why is it important to consider the ways in which social science is written? Drawing from qualitative and quantitative research, include in your answer issues such as the use of rhetoric and writing strategies, reflexivity and voice.

Section B: Quantitative. Answer two questions from this section

Please keep your answers short and to the point. You may not reuse material from one answer in another answer.

9. (a) List and briefly describe the criteria for causality discussed by Babbie in *The Practice of Social Research*.
(b) What problems in providing the evidence needed to meet these criteria frequently arise in cross-sectional research designs (such as those often employed in survey research)?
10. Babbie contrasts the inductive model of theory construction with the deductive model. Describe these two models, giving examples of research that uses **one** of these models.

11. List and briefly describe the main stages in quantitative research as depicted by either Babbie or Bryman. Please specify clearly which text is used.

EITHER:

- 12 (a) Why does Bryman assert that “validity (of measurement) presumes reliability”?
(b) List and briefly describe four types of validity (of measurement) considered by Bryman.

OR

13. (a) Babbie lists four criteria for measurement quality: precision, accuracy, reliability and validity. Briefly explain what is meant by each of these terms.
(b) Describe two approaches to assessing reliability (omitting “using established measures”).
14. In Steelman and Mercy’s article, “Unconfounding the Confluence Model”:
a. What were the benefits and costs of including in the study only white children “residing in homes with both of their natural parents and no other adults over 20 years old”?
b. Why were separate tables of mean IQ by birth order and sibship size constructed for below-poverty status subjects on the one hand and for above-poverty status subjects on the other?
c. In the tables mentioned in (b) above, why were all families of sibship size greater than five put together into one category, whereas families of sibship size one, two, three, four and five respectively were assigned to separate categories?
15. a. What are the benefits of sampling as opposed to taking a complete enumeration of a population? What is the major disadvantage of sampling?
b. What are the defining features of one of the following:
(i) simple random sampling, or
(ii) stratified random sampling
16. What are the problems caused for probability sampling by:
(i) inadequate sampling frame
(ii) non-response
(iii) small sample size
17. List the rules for designing survey questions given by Bryman.
18. What are the sampling issues OR the issues of reliability and validity specific to structured observation as a research method, according to Bryman?