

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

AUTUMN EXAMINATION 1999

BACHELOR OF NURSING DEGREE

RESEARCH METHODS I (NU416)

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You are expected to answer a total of THREE (3) questions. Use a separate answer book for each question. All questions are worth 100 marks, the breakdown of marks is indicated in brackets. Please note you are expected to support your answers by referring to relevant literature and examples from research studies where appropriate.

Time allowed: Two (2) hours

BND 1 - RESEARCH METHODS I (NU416)

1. Imagine you are interested in investigating peoples' adjustment to retirement. Describe the steps you would take to research this topic.

(100 marks)

2. Explain what is meant by "quantitative" and "qualitative" research. Use appropriate examples of quantitative and qualitative research studies to support your answer.

(100 marks)

3. Below is a brief description of a fictitious research study. Read the description and evaluate the ethical aspects of the study.

Lynch (1998) carried out an in-depth study, in five psychiatric hospitals, to determine if clients' perceptions about personal control over decision-making differed from the perceptions of the nursing staff. The researcher studied nursing-client relationships to determine whether there were differing perceptions and experiences regarding control over daily activities of living. Lynch sought permission to conduct the study from the hospital administrator. Thirty nurses and thirty clients volunteered to participate in the study. Lynch assured all participants in the study of the confidentiality of the information. The data was gathered mainly through in-depth interviews with the clients and the nurses at separate times. In addition the researcher wanted to observe discussions and interactions between nurses and clients as they might occur naturally, therefore participants were not told the exact nature of the study. The findings from the study revealed that patients perceived that they had more control over all aspects of the activities of daily living (except arising) than the nurses perceived they had.

(100 marks)

Contd./

4. Suggest a method of collecting data for one of the following.

- Student nurses experiences of their first clinical placement.
- How nurses demonstrate caring in their work.

In your answer:

(a) Provide a rationale for the data collection method you suggest. Your answer should include an evaluation of the strengths and limitations of the method you choose.

(50 marks)

(b) Identify the key factors you would consider when using this method

(50 marks)

5) (a) Describe the steps you would take when conducting a literature search.

(70 marks)

(b) Outline the strengths and weaknesses of two methods of searching the literature.

(30 marks)

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