

Name of the Program: PhD in TE
Semester: Summer

Date: 15 May (Wednesday), 2024

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (IUT)
ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC)
DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Semester Final Examination

Course Number: TVE 6253

Course Title: Qualitative Research and Data Analysis

Summer Semester: 2022 - 2023

Time: 3.00 Hours

Full Marks: 150

There are 8 (Eight) questions. Answer any 6 (six) questions. The symbols have their usual meaning.

1. a) Discuss the design and purpose of exploratory and explanatory research, providing examples to illustrate their implementation. Also, outline the three key considerations for researchers when developing a mixed-method study. (12) CO1
- b) Differentiate between Ontological and Epistemological assumptions based on positivist and constructivist paradigms. Provide related examples from the literature to establish your arguments. (13) CO2
2. a) Lichtman (2017) suggests that although most researchers exhibit ethical behavior, instances of unethical conduct no longer come as a shock. To illustrate this assertion, cite examples of: (15) CO1
 - i. Misconduct within the broader scientific community,
 - ii. Misconduct within the realm of qualitative research.
- b) Explain how ethical principles are upheld in qualitative research, including confidentiality, anonymity, managing inappropriate relationships, ensuring informed consent, and maintaining privacy. Use appropriate examples to illustrate each aspect. (10) CO1
3. a) Discuss a situation where *phenomenographic research* is considered the best fit for a qualitative research investigation. Define the theoretical assumptions underpinning *phenomenographic research*. (10) CO2
- b) Explain the core concept of *variation theory* and provide a scenario where the application of *variation theory* and *phenomenographic approach* is essential for conducting research. (15) CO2
4. a) Describe the characteristics of the following major qualitative research approaches with appropriate examples. (10) CO1
- b) Consider a scenario where you aim to investigate the adaptation of emerging educational technologies by senior academics in universities in developing countries. Which research paradigm would you choose to investigate the phenomenon? Explain in detail – the sampling methods, data collection and data analysis strategy for your investigation. (15) CO3
5. a) Discuss the significance of *Observation* as a key research method in social sciences, as highlighted by Ciesielska et al. (2018). Explain the context in which the *Observation* method is suitable for research and justify its relevance. Furthermore, distinguish between *direct* and *indirect observation* techniques, providing examples to illustrate each. (12) CO3

- b) Describe the circumstances under which employing *focus group discussions* would be advantageous for gathering data. Additionally, provide a step-by-step outline of the process involved in conducting a *focus group discussion*, accompanied by a flow diagram to visualize the procedure. (13) CO4²
6. a) Explain when and how to use the following five types of interview questions: Ground Tour, Concrete Questions, Comparison/Contrast, New Elements/Topics, and Closing. Provide suitable examples illustrating the application of each question type in an interview scenario. (12) CO3
- b) Discuss the various conceptions of interviews highlighted by Roulston (2010), emphasizing the lack of consistency in judging the quality of qualitative interviews. Explain how interviewing is not considered a universal technique but is rather based on theoretical viewpoints, with interviewers striving to achieve diverse goals. (13) CO3
7. a) In qualitative research, what does the 'data' signify? Compare the strengths and limitations of qualitative data in contrast to quantitative data. (10) CO4
- b) Describe the six phases of Thematic Analysis as outlined by Braun & Clarke (2006), emphasizing the process of evolving thematic maps to depict the final analysis. (15) CO4
8. Outline the guidelines for transcribing an interview conducted for a PhD study, covering pre-transcription, transcription, and post-transcription phases. Additionally, demonstrate the usage of transcription symbols like Comma (,), Ellipses (...), and Pauses to accurately represent speech patterns in the transcription process. (25) CO4