

This paper is not to be removed from the Examination Halls

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

279 0054 ZA

BSc degrees and Diplomas for Graduates in Economics, Management, Finance and the Social Sciences, the Diploma in Economics and Access Route for Students in the External Programme

Methods of Social Research

Tuesday, 23 May 2006 : 10.00am to 1.00pm

Candidates should answer **THREE** of the following **TWELVE** questions. All questions carry equal marks.

A hand held calculator may be used when answering questions on this paper but it must not be pre-programmed or able to display graphics, text or algebraic equations. The make and type of machine must be stated clearly on the front cover of the answer book.

PLEASE TURN OVER

1. Is it possible satisfactorily to distinguish between induction and deduction in approaching problems of sociological discovery?
2. Why are many concepts, and their operationalization, often the subject of controversy between different researchers conducting sociological research? Use appropriate examples in your answer.
3. What are the main stages in the construction of a Guttman scale? Explain the principles underlying this type of attitude scale and give examples of attitudes most amenable to this form of scaling.
4. Discuss, with examples, the strengths and weaknesses of **two** different approaches to quasi-experimentation in sociological research.
5. What are some principal problems in attempting to construct causal models based on survey data collected at one point in time? Include as part of your answer problems in using retrospective or recall data collected by survey.
6. Discuss, with examples, the issues of question-wording effects to be borne in mind when constructing a questionnaire.
7. Compare and contrast telephone interviewing and mailed questionnaires as techniques of data-gathering.
8. Do you agree with the view that the basis of good sociological research is adequate sampling? Discuss with respect both to quantitative and to qualitative studies.
9. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the three principal types of probability sampling: simple random sampling, proportionate stratified sampling, and cluster sampling.
10. Discuss different ways in which you would seek to explore the nature and strength of the relationships between variables in a contingency table. Include as part of your answer a discussion of the special case of the two-by-two contingency table.
11. Are the ethical problems encountered by a sociologist doing ethnographic research any different from those for other types of research method?
12. Discuss the potential of the Internet for sociological research, distinguishing between the Internet as a research tool and the Internet as a research topic.

END OF PAPER