

*University of London*

**EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS**

*For The Following Qualification:-*

*M.Res.*

**M.Res. Health Services Research & Policy: Research Methods**

**COURSE CODE : HSRP0001**

**DATE : 04-JUN-03**

**TIME : 10.00**

**TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours**

**Paper I. Health services research methods (HSRP0001) and health economics (HSRP0005)**

Answer FOUR questions only: Three questions from Section I  
and  
One question from Section II

Use a separate answer book for each question

WHERE APPROPRIATE, REFERENCE CAN BE MADE TO THE SERVICE AND CONDITIONS OF ANY NAMED COUNTRY WITH WHICH THE CANDIDATE IS FAMILIAR

Please write legibly

**Section I (Answer three questions only)**

1. What are a) the main threats to the reliability and validity of research measurement tools and b) the main types of bias and error in survey and experimental research designs? Include brief examples of methods used to minimise these problems. 50 marks
2. What are the main techniques of sampling people in survey research? Explain the strengths and weaknesses of each method. 50 marks
3. Describe the essential features of a randomised controlled trial (a true experiment). What are the advantages and disadvantages of using a randomised control trial design in health care evaluation in comparison with other experimental methods? 50 marks
4. What are the different types of non-randomised experimental design? Explain the strengths and limitations of each method. 50 marks
5. What are the aims of unstructured, in-depth interview techniques? What are the advantages and disadvantages of in-depth interviews in comparison with structured interviews? 50 marks
6. What research design/s would you choose to use to investigate the immediate (e.g. over 6 months), and also the longer term (e.g. over a 20 year period), effects of taking hormone replacement therapy in women? Explain why you have chosen your method/s in preference to others. 50 marks

**TURN OVER**

**Section II (Answer one question only)**

1. Write short notes on two of the following three items:
  - (a) The use of discounting in health technology projects
  - (b) The incremental cost effectiveness ratio
  - (c) Sensitivity analysis in health-economic modelling 50 marks
  
2. Why is the market for health care different from that of most other commodities? 50 marks
  
3. What are the main types of economic evaluation? Describe how they differ and under which circumstance each would be an appropriate framework to use. 50 marks

**END OF PAPER**