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End Semester Examination, December 2024
B.A. (Hons) Psychology – 5th Semester
PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH (SHPS333A)

Time: 2.5 hrs.

Max Marks: **50**

Note: *All Questions are compulsory. Marks are indicated against each question.*

PART-A

Q.1 *Attempt 5 out of 7 questions. Each question carries 2 marks.*

2x5

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|--|-----------------------|
| (a) Differentiate between age and grade norms. | [CO-1] [L-2] 2 |
| (b) What is snowball sampling and when is it most suitable? | [CO-1] [L-1] 2 |
| (c) Differentiate between concept and construct. | [CO-1] [L-1] 2 |
| (d) What is operational definition? | [CO-1] [L-1] 2 |
| (e) What is a hypothesis? Give an example of null hypothesis for relationship between two variables. | [CO-1] [L-1] 2 |
| (f) What do you understand by sampling frame? | [CO-1] [L-1] 2 |
| (g) What differentiates science from pseudoscience? | [CO-1] [L-2] 2 |

PART-B

Each question carries 10 marks. Attempt either alternative.

4x10

Q. 2. With a research example, explain the steps involved in conducting psychological research. [CO-2] [L-2] **10**

OR

A group of researchers is studying the impact of economic inequality on educational outcomes in marginalized communities. Their goal is to uncover how unequal power relations in society perpetuate educational disparities, and they aim to challenge the structures that contribute to this inequality. The researchers are committed to using their findings to advocate for social change and policy reform to address these systemic issues. [CO-2] [L-2] **10**

- (a) Identify the research paradigm of this study. Which methodologies are best suited for this paradigm? (5)
- (b) Write a note on the interpretivist paradigm. (5)

Q. 3. Differentiate between laboratory experiments and field studies. As a researcher of psychology, which one do you find a better fit for research? Explain [CO-3] [L-5] **10**

your perspective.

OR

A clinical psychologist is conducting a study on the effects of mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (MBCT) on reducing anxiety in college students. Due to time constraints, the researcher decides to include only students who have signed up for an ongoing wellness program at the university. The aim is to ensure that the participants already have an interest in psychological well-being, which might affect their anxiety levels during the study. [CO-3] [L-5] **10**

(a) Which sampling method would be best suited for this study? Why? (4)

(b) Identify the key differences between probability and non-probability sampling methods. (6)

Q. 4. Explain the interview method of data collection. Discuss the various types of interviews commonly used in research, highlighting their advantages and limitations. Provide examples of when each type would be most appropriate to use in psychological studies. (2+4+4) [CO-4] [L-2] **10**

OR

Present a comparative account of qualitative and quantitative research. [CO-4] [L-2] **10**

Q.5. A researcher is conducting an experiment on cognitive load in participants without fully explaining the purpose of the study. Some participants experience high stress due to the tasks, which were more challenging than they were led to believe. Additionally, their personal information, including sensitive health data, was shared with third parties without consent. Despite the potential harm, the researcher continues the study without addressing the participants' discomfort or offering support. [CO-5] [L-2] **10**

(a) What ethical concerns are being violated in this study?

(b) How can Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) ensure the conduction of ethical research?

OR

(a) Discuss the importance of ethics in psychological research. (5) [CO-5] [L-2] **10**
(b) Describe the key ethical principles that researchers must follow in psychological research. (5)