



*“Investing in Africa’s Future”*

**COLLEGE OF HEALTH, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND NURSING**

**NSNS 308: RESEARCH METHODS IN NURSING**

**END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS**

**NOV/DEC 2025**

**LECTURER: MR. E. CHIKAKA**

**DURATION: 3 HOURS**

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## **INSTRUCTIONS**

**ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS FROM SECTION A AND ANY THREE (3)  
FROM SECTION B**

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**THE MARK ALLOCATION FOR EACH QUESTION IS INDICATED AT  
THE END OF THE QUESTION**

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**CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR LOGICAL, SYSTEMATIC, AND NEAT  
PRESENTATION**

## SECTION A — SHORT STRUCTURED QUESTIONS (40 marks)

Answer **ALL** questions. Each question carries **10 marks**.

### Question 1

- a) Define the following research terms: (i) Independent variable, (ii) Dependent variable, (iii) Research reliability, (iv) Sampling error. [4]
- b) Provide one example in nursing research where each of these concepts can be applied. [6]

### Question 2

- a) List and explain four key characteristics of qualitative research. [4]
- b) Contrast quantitative descriptive design and qualitative exploratory design with one nursing-related example each. [6]

### Question 3

A student is preparing a literature review on pain management in post-operative patients.

- a) State three purposes of conducting a literature review. [3]
- b) Identify two primary and two secondary sources that would be useful. [4]
- c) Explain why proper citation and referencing are important in literature reviews. [3]

### Question 4

A researcher intends to use a mixed methods design to investigate the effectiveness of telehealth follow-up for discharged cardiac patients.

- a) Name and briefly describe two types of mixed methods designs that could be used. [4]
- b) State three advantages and three challenges of using mixed methods research in nursing. [6]

## SECTION B — STRUCTURED QUESTIONS (60 marks)

Answer **ANY 3** questions. Each question carries **20 marks**.

### Question 5

You are designing a study to evaluate the effect of a nurse-led exercise programme on blood glucose control in type 2 diabetic patients.

- a) Identify the most appropriate quantitative design for this study and justify your choice. [6]
- b) Differentiate between cluster sampling and systematic sampling. Provide an example of how each could be applied in this study. [8]
- c) Explain how randomisation and replication improve the validity of experimental research. [6]

### Question 6

- a) Explain the main features of phenomenology and grounded theory as qualitative approaches. [6]
- b) Describe three data collection methods commonly used in qualitative nursing research, with examples. [6]

c) Discuss how data saturation and triangulation contribute to trustworthiness of qualitative findings. [8]

**Question 7**

a) Describe five major ethical principles in human subjects research and provide one nursing example for each.

[10]

b) Explain the concept of research misconduct, giving three examples, and discuss how universities can prevent misconduct.

[10]

**Question 8**

a) Outline the major sections of a quantitative research report and briefly describe what is included in each section.

[10]

b) Draft two measurable objectives and two hypotheses (null and alternative) for a study titled: "*Effect of nurse-led nutrition counselling on weight reduction among obese adults at Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals, 2025*".

[10]

**END OF PAPER**

Good luck!