

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO – SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF ARTS

**Examination in Master of Arts in Sociology (Two years) – 2016/2018
& Masters in Sociology (One year) – 2016/2017**

2nd Semester

MAS 602 – Sociological Research Methods

Answer four (04) questions only

Time : Three (03) hours only

1. What is a research paradigm? Discuss the relevance of different paradigms in qualitative and quantitative methods of inquiry used in sociological research.
2. Discuss the conceptual differences involved in “methodology”, “methods” and “techniques” adopted in research. Examine the usage of these concepts in a research process. Use examples to elaborate your answer.
3. ‘Epistemology is the science of knowledge.’ Analyze the epistemological significance of theory in designing and completion of a research process.
4. Explain the main differences between Random and Non Random sampling designs and discuss the main steps of selecting a systematic sample using an example.
5. 5.1 ‘A research hypothesis should be simple, specific and conceptually clear’ Do you agree with the statement? Give reasons for your answer.
5.2 What are the errors that can occur when testing a hypothesis? Discuss.

P.T.O.

6. 'Triangulation of methods and analysis will assist to improve the validity and reliability of research findings.' Critically examine this statement.
7. 'A researcher needs to have a good knowledge on scales of measurement of variables when conducting Univariate, Bivariate or Multivariate Quantitative Analysis.' Examine this statement using relevant examples.
8. Write short essays on any **two (02)** of the following topics.
 - (i) Research design and study design.
 - (ii) Research ethics and ethical dilemmas.
 - (iii) Advantages and disadvantages of the focus group interview method.
 - (iv) Pure and applied research
