

Example of a Test Blueprint

Educational Research Methods: Final Exam Outline

The final exam will consist of 25 multiple choice items, each worth 2 to 4 points, and five short essay questions, each worth 3 to 5 points. The items will cover most of the concepts listed below.

Validity and Reliability (Up to 16 points)

- Demonstrate an understanding of reliability and validity
- Correctly identify the type of reliability and validity evidence being provided by given information on an instrument.
- Recognize examples of measurement error in a given situation.
- Assess the meaning and implications of measurement error.
- Apply general principles for ensuring validity.

Inferential Statistics

- Demonstrate an understanding of the concept of a null hypothesis.
- Select the most appropriate inferential statistics for a given research situation.
- Know the most common “cut-off” point that statisticians use in deciding whether two means differ statistically significantly from one another.
- Correctly interpret the results of t, F, and χ^2 tests as presented in research articles.
- Interpret the effect of standard deviation and sample size on the results of a statistical test.

Experimental Research (Up to 12 points)

- Interpret correctly the symbolic representations of experimental designs.
- Describe the benefits and limitations of each experimental and quasi-experimental design covered in class.
- Identify the appropriate research design for a given research situation.

Correlational Research (Up to 12 points)

- Demonstrate an understanding of regression and the use of regression equations.
- Understand what r, R^2 , and partial correlations are and what they tell us.
- Understand what multiple regression analysis is used for and what it tells us.

Qualitative Research: Observation, Interviews, and Ethnographic Research (Up to 16 points)

- Describe and discuss qualitative research and its key characteristics.
- Identify the pros and cons of qualitative research.
- Describe the concept of a focus group.
- Identify the pros and cons of focus group research.
- Understand the key principles in conducting focus groups.
- Define what ethnographic research is and identify or describe examples of it.

Historical Research (Up to 10 points)

- Describe the need for historical research.
- Identify the kinds of historical research sources.
- Recognize examples of primary and secondary resources.
- Understand how to evaluate historical research.

Content Analysis (12 points)

- Demonstrate an understanding of content analysis.
- Understand the pros and cons of content analysis.
- Recognize examples of different kinds of content analysis.
- Explain how to analyze content analysis data.

Multiple Units (Up to 6 points)

- Identify the most appropriate research method for a given situation.

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