



**UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**

PHM104

**MSc/POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA/POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATION**

PUBLIC HEALTH

Principles of Social Research

June 2021 examination

Your answers must be YOUR OWN WORK without any help from others.

Read the “Instructions for completing LSHTM DL examinations (June 2021)” document **before** you start answering these questions.

You must answer **ALL** three questions on this paper.

Type all your answers to each question in the correct answer document provided and enter the word count for your answer on the front page of the answer document.

You must upload all your answers to the EMS **within 24 hours** of downloading this exam paper.

Recommended time limit for completion of this paper: **2 hours and 15 minutes**.

You are advised to spend the first 15 minutes of this exam reading the question paper and planning your answers.

QUESTIONS BEGIN ON THE NEXT PAGE

Question 1

Word limit - Up to 1000 words per whole question (equivalent to approximately 2 pages of single-spaced, typed text, with size 11 Arial font).

There is clear evidence globally that intimate partner violence (IPV) against women is strongly associated with HIV infection. Furthermore, women who experience IPV are less likely to access HIV testing and counselling services and implement risk-reduction strategies.

The Ministry of Health in an unspecified LMIC is pilot testing an intervention which integrates enquiry for intimate partner violence (IPV) in three antenatal clinics that offer routine HIV testing and counselling. Pregnant women are offered HIV testing and counselling and are also asked about experiences of IPV by trained clinic staff. Women who disclose IPV are referred to a clinic nurse who provides a first line response (listens, enquires about needs, discusses safety plans) and helps connect women to support services. Enquiry for IPV, disclosures and referrals offered are documented in a confidential clinic record. The pilot intervention has been running for six months, but some health care providers are not asking women about IPV. Additionally, women who disclose IPV are not taking up offers of referral. You have been asked to investigate the acceptability of, and barriers to, integrating enquiry for IPV into antenatal clinic services, from the perspective of pregnant women and health care providers. Additionally, to explore what actions are required (with women or health care providers) to facilitate better integration of services.

- (a) Explain what qualitative methods you would use and what advantages they might have, compared to other methods. **(35%)**
- (b) Explain what quantitative methods you would use and what advantages they might have, compared to other methods. **(35%)**
- (c) Discuss the advantages of using both quantitative and qualitative methods together in a mixed methods design. **(30%)**

(Questions 2 and 3 follow on the next page)

Question 2

Word limit - Up to 1000 words per whole question (equivalent to approximately 2 pages of single-spaced, typed text, with size 11 Arial font).

You are a researcher employed at a private firm in London, England, which has been contracted to conduct a research project. This project is investigating London city residents' use of public transport and their attitudes towards those services provided by the public body responsible for the provision of public transport. Your manager is considering using a postal questionnaire to investigate city residents' use of public transport and attitudes towards the current services.

- (a) List and briefly describe FOUR advantages and FOUR disadvantages of using a postal questionnaire compared with other methods in this context. **(20%)**
- (b) You have decided to use a postal questionnaire. List and briefly describe SIX qualities that contribute to making a good survey question, bearing in mind that the questionnaire will be sent by post. **(30%)**
- (c) Briefly describe NINE elements that you would incorporate into the design and layout of the postal questionnaire in order to maximise the response rate and minimise errors in completion. **(50%)**

Question 3

Word limit - Up to 1000 words per whole question (equivalent to approximately 2 pages of single-spaced, typed text, with size 11 Arial font).

You have been asked to develop a new psychometric questionnaire that measures health related quality of life of patients with diabetes.

- (a) Describe how you would develop the content of the questionnaire. **(25%)**
- (b) Explain why it is important that a psychometric questionnaire has good reliability and validity. **(10%)**
- (c) Discuss how you would evaluate the reliability and validity of the questionnaire. **(65%)**

END OF PAPER