

Paper I: Research Methods in Political Studies

- I     Dimensions of Knowledge:  
Scientific approach to knowledge.
- II    Designing a Research:  
a) Sources to use in selecting a topic  
    Turning a topic into a research problem  
    Formulating a hypothesis  
b) Units of Analysis  
    Variables: Types and relationship among variables  
    The measurement process: Conceptualisation, operationalism  
    Levels of measurement  
    Reliability and validity  
c) Sampling: Types of probability and non-probability sampling  
    Factors effecting the choice of sampling design  
    Factors determining sample size
- III   Methods of DataCollection:  
a) Survey Research: Advantages and disadvantage  
    Formulating questionnaire  
    Techniques of interviewing  
b) Field Research  
    Participant and non-participant observation, ethnography  
c) Research using available data  
    Content Analysis
- IV    Data Analysis:  
a) Univariate, Bivariate and Multivariate Analysis  
    Modelling relationships  
b) Graphs  
c) Writing research reports/paper  
d) Footnotes and References

Readings:

1. Donatella Delta Porta & Michael Keating (eds), *Approaches and Methodologies in The Social Science*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2008
2. Miller, *Survey Methods in Social and Political Science* (1983)
3. Roger Pierce, *Research Methods in Politics*, Sage, New Delhi, 2008
4. Ryan Alan (ed), *The Philosophy of Social Explanation*, Oxford Uty Press, Oxford, 1973
5. Shively W. Philips, *The Craft of Political Research: A Primer*, Prentice Hall, New Jersey, 1974
6. Sjoberg & Nett, *A Methodology of Social Research* (1992)
7. Williamson, *The Research Craft* (1988)
8. Wonnacott and Wonnacott, *Introduction to Statistics* (1990)
9. Zisk, *Political Research* (1989)
10. Goode, William, Hatt, Paul K, *Methods in Social Science Research*, Mcgraw -Hill Kogakusha Ltd, 1932.

Ph.D. (PRELIMINARY QUALIFYING) EXAMINATION, JANUARY 2015

(Course work)

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Paper I – Research Methods in Political Studies

Time: Three Hours

Maximum: 70 Marks

Section A

*Answer any **five** questions in about **three pages** each.  
Each Question carries 6 Marks.*

1. Analyse different forms of hypothesis and its relevance to research.
2. "Field research always gives some amount of accuracy to the research". Discuss.
3. Write a note on the use of graphs in social research. How far they are relevant?
4. Define Sampling. How do one effect various types of sample design?
5. Distinguish between Bivariate and Multivariate Analysis.
6. What are the types of variables? Bring out its utility in research.
7. Assess the advantages of non-participant observation method.
8. How do we prepare a research report and what are the stages involved in it?

(5x6=30 marks)

Section B

*Answer any **two** question in about **six pages** each.  
Each Question carries 20 Marks.*

9. Elucidate the significance of Social Science Research and its linkages to development.
10. "Knowledge is the collection and accumulation of multiple ideas which however cannot be tied to any particular discipline". Discuss.
11. Explain the steps involved in designing a research. Do you think social science research is different from pure science research.
12. "Data collection may not be a simple activity given the fact that there are many methods and the fact that researcher may not be able to overcome the bias". Analyse.

(2x20=40 marks)