NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF HEALTH, APPLIED SCIENCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCES

QUALIFICATIONS: BACHELOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT, BACHELOR OF HUMAN NUTRITION	
QUALIFICATION CODE: 08BOHS, 07BHIS, 08BOHN	**LEVEL:** 7
COURSE CODE: EPD711S	**COURSE NAME:** EPIDEMIOLOGY 3
SESSION: JUNE 2022	**PAPER:** THEORY
DURATION: 3 HOURS	**MARKS:** 100

FIRST OPPORTUNITY EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER	
EXAMINER(S)	DR LARAI AKU-AKAI
MODERATOR:	DR ROSWITHA MAHALIE

INSTRUCTIONS
1. Answer ALL the questions. 2. Write clearly and neatly in the spaces provided.

PERMISSIBLE MATERIALS

1. Scientific calculator
2. Statistical tables (attached)

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF 9 PAGES (Including this front page)

Question 1 (20 marks)

Select the most appropriate answer from the options provided.

1.1 Which of the following can be obtained from retrospective studies:

a) Attributable risk
b) Prevalence rate
c) Relative risk
d) Odd's ratio (1)

1.2 These are all discrete variables **except**:

a) Cars in the garage
b) Boys in the classroom
c) Height in metres
d) Computer hardware delivered (1)

1.3 The total number of cases of a disease at a given point in time in a given population is:

a) Incidence
b) Prevalence
c) Epidemiology
d) Attack rate (1)

1.4. Seasonal variation of a disease can be assessed by:

a) Comparing incidence of disease
b) Comparing prevalence of disease
c) Using mortality rates
d) Using survival rates (1)

1.5. All are disadvantages of case-control studies **except**:

a) Incidence rate cannot be ascertained
b) Bias can be introduced in selection of controls
c) It is unsuitable for studying rare diseases
d) It is reliant on respondents' memory or reliable record keeping (1)

1.6. Which of the following statements is **not true** about cross-sectional studies?

a) Based on a single examination at one point in time
b) More useful for chronic diseases
c) Provides very little information about the natural history of disease
d) Can help in identifying risk factors for disease (1)

1.7. All are advantages of cohort studies **except**:

a) Several outcomes related to exposure can be studied simultaneously
b) Bias is minimized
c) It is suitable for studying rare diseases
d) Dose response to exposure can be studied (1)

1.8. Which of the following statements is true about ecological studies?

a) The study units are the individuals within the population
b) More useful for chronic diseases
c) It makes comparison between large populations
d) It demonstrates trends over time (1)

1.9 Learners' annual academic performance were compiled and ranked, as "first", "second", "third", "fourth", and so on. This belongs to what scale of measurement?

a) nominal
b) ordinal
c) interval
d) ratio (1)

1.10 The normal distribution curve is dependent on:

a) Mean and sample
b) Mean and median
c) Median and standard deviation
d) Mean and standard deviation (1)

*Indicate which of the following is **true** or **false**:*

1.11 The difference between the proportion of cases interviewed and the proportion of controls interviewed could cause selection bias. (1)

1.12 Descriptive studies could be used to generate hypothesis. (1)

1.13 Ecological studies are used to monitor trends of events over a long period of time in the same population. (1)

1.14 By matching the controls to the cases on age, it is ensured that age will not be a confounder. (1)

1.15 Restricting the study to non-smokers introduces smoking as a confounder in the study. (1)

1.16. A pie chart is useful in presenting qualitative data. (1)

1.17 An advantage of the cohort design compared to a case-control study design is that in a cohort study one can address multiple outcomes. (1)

1.18 Participant observation can be used to collect quantitative data. (1)

1.19 Cross-sectional studies are limited by their lack of generalisability, but are powerful in that they directly measure risk. (1)

1.20 Cross-sectional studies cannot directly assess causal inference because they measure disease and exposure in a person at the same point in time. (1)

Question 2 (20 marks)

Explain the following terms used in health research:
(Each correct answer earns 2 marks)

2.1 Bias
2.2 Variable
2.3 Hypothesis
2.4 Confounding
2.5 Autonomy
2.6 Volunteer effect
2.7 Type 2 error
2.8 Confidence interval
2.9 Probability sampling
2.10 Critical region

Question 3 (20 marks)

3.1 Identify each of the following as either **qualitative** (specify **nominal** or **ordinal**) or **quantitative** (specify **discrete** or **continuous**).

3.1.1. Coliform count in water sample (2)

3.1.2. Level of satisfaction with health services (2)

3.1.3. Weight in kg (2)

3.1.4. Numbers of days admitted in hospital (2)

3.1.5. Gender (2)

3.2 Select the most suitable sampling method for the following situations (*One method for each situation*):

3.2.1 Selection of cases of individuals with sexually transmitted infections (2)

3.2.2 Selection of participants for a survey on obesity among NUST students (2)

3.2.3 Selection of health officials for interview on evaluation of community health interventions in Windhoek. (2)

3.3 Select the most suitable study design for the following situations:

3.3.1 A municipality wants to determine the acceptability of a do-it-yourself water purification method among residents in an informal settlement. They also need to determine the sources of water and occurrence of water borne diseases among the residents. (2)

3.3.2 The municipality wants to determine if the do-it-yourself water purification method improved the quality of drinking water among residents in an informal settlement. After providing the water purification method to a random sample of residents of the area, they collect water samples from both those who utilised the water purification method and a random sample of those who did not utilise the method and compare the quality of the water. (2)

Question 4 (20 marks)

4.1 Outline the characteristics of the X^2-distribution. (4)

4.2 Highlight **four (4)** potential sources of error in studies and how to overcome each error mentioned. (8)

4.3 Discuss focus group discussions. (8)

Question 5 (20 marks)

5.1 The weight of children under 5 years of age is distributed closely normally, with a mean of 17 kg and standard deviation of 6 kg. A Nutritionist is trying out a certain diet for its impact on nutritional status among children under-5. A random sample of 42 children placed on the diet were weighed after 2 months, and an average weight of 21 kg was obtained. Does the diet make a difference in the average weight of the under-5's? (8)

5.2 A group of occupational hygienists follow a group of workers in a noisy factory who consistently make use of PPE to protect their ears from noise for 18 years compared to another group of workers who do not use of PPE to protect their ears from noise. The occupational hygienists want to determine if there is a difference in the incidence of hearing loss between the two groups over the 18 year period. Of 110 workers who consistently make use of PPE, 10 develop hearing loss and of 60 workers who do not use PPE consistently, 15 develop hearing loss.

5.2.1 State the study design used. (1)

5.2.2 Design a table and insert the information above. (4)

5.2.3 Analyse the results of the study and conclude on the findings. (7)

Good luck!!!

Z table

z	.00	.01	.02	.03	.04	.05	.06	.07	.08	.09
.0	.5000	.5040	.5080	.5120	.5160	.5199	.5239	.5279	.5319	.5359
.1	.5398	.5438	.5478	.5517	.5557	.5596	.5636	.5675	.5714	.5753
.2	.5793	.5832	.5871	.5910	.5948	.5987	.6026	.6064	.6103	.6141
.3	.6179	.6217	.6255	.6293	.6331	.6368	.6406	.6443	.6480	.6517
.4	.6554	.6591	.6628	.6664	.6700	.6736	.6772	.6808	.6844	.6879
.5	.6915	.6950	.6985	.7019	.7054	.7088	.7123	.7157	.7190	.7224
.6	.7257	.7291	.7324	.7357	.7389	.7422	.7454	.7486	.7517	.7549
.7	.7580	.7611	.7642	.7673	.7704	.7734	.7764	.7794	.7823	.7852
.8	.7881	.7910	.7939	.7967	.7995	.8023	.8051	.8078	.8106	.8133
.9	.8159	.8186	.8212	.8238	.8264	.8289	.8315	.8340	.8365	.8389
1.0	.8413	.8438	.8461	.8485	.8508	.8531	.8554	.8577	.8599	.8621
1.1	.8643	.8665	.8686	.8708	.8729	.8749	.8770	.8790	.8810	.8830
1.2	.8849	.8869	.8888	.8907	.8925	.8944	.8962	.8980	.8997	.9015
1.3	.9032	.9049	.9066	.9082	.9099	.9115	.9131	.9147	.9162	.9177
1.4	.9192	.9207	.9222	.9236	.9251	.9265	.9279	.9292	.9306	.9319
1.5	.9332	.9345	.9357	.9370	.9382	.9394	.9406	.9418	.9429	.9441
1.6	.9452	.9463	.9474	.9484	.9495	.9505	.9515	.9525	.9535	.9545
1.7	.9554	.9564	.9573	.9582	.9591	.9599	.9608	.9616	.9625	.9633
1.8	.9641	.9649	.9656	.9664	.9671	.9678	.9686	.9693	.9699	.9706
1.9	.9713	.9719	.9726	.9732	.9738	.9744	.9750	.9756	.9761	.9767
2.0	.9772	.9778	.9783	.9788	.9793	.9798	.9803	.9808	.9812	.9817
2.1	.9821	.9826	.9830	.9834	.9838	.9842	.9846	.9850	.9854	.9857
2.2	.9861	.9864	.9868	.9871	.9875	.9878	.9881	.9884	.9887	.9890
2.3	.9893	.9896	.9898	.9901	.9904	.9906	.9909	.9911	.9913	.9916
2.4	.9918	.9920	.9922	.9925	.9927	.9929	.9931	.9932	.9934	.9936
2.5	.9938	.9940	.9941	.9943	.9945	.9946	.9948	.9949	.9951	.9952
2.6	.9953	.9955	.9956	.9957	.9959	.9960	.9961	.9962	.9963	.9964
2.7	.9965	.9966	.9967	.9968	.9969	.9970	.9971	.9972	.9973	.9974
2.8	.9974	.9975	.9976	.9977	.9977	.9978	.9979	.9979	.9980	.9981
2.9	.9981	.9982	.9982	.9983	.9984	.9984	.9985	.9985	.9986	.9986
3.0	.9987	.9987	.9987	.9988	.9988	.9989	.9989	.9989	.9990	.9990
3.1	.9990	.9991	.9991	.9991	.9992	.9992	.9992	.9992	.9993	.9993
3.2	.9993	.9993	.9994	.9994	.9994	.9994	.9994	.9995	.9995	.9995
3.3	.9995	.9995	.9995	.9996	.9996	.9996	.9996	.9996	.9996	.9997
3.4	.9997	.9997	.9997	.9997	.9997	.9997	.9997	.9997	.9997	.9998

t Table

cum. prob	$t_{.50}$	$t_{.75}$	$t_{.80}$	$t_{.85}$	$t_{.90}$	$t_{.95}$	$t_{.975}$	$t_{.99}$	$t_{.995}$	$t_{.999}$	$t_{.9995}$
one-tail	0.50	0.25	0.20	0.15	0.10	0.05	0.025	0.01	0.005	0.001	0.0005
two-tails	1.00	0.50	0.40	0.30	0.20	0.10	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.002	0.001
df											
1	0.000	1.000	1.376	1.963	3.078	6.314	12.71	31.82	63.66	318.31	636.62
2	0.000	0.816	1.061	1.386	1.886	2.920	4.303	6.965	9.925	22.327	31.599
3	0.000	0.765	0.978	1.250	1.638	2.353	3.182	4.541	5.841	10.215	12.924
4	0.000	0.741	0.941	1.190	1.533	2.132	2.776	3.747	4.604	7.173	8.610
5	0.000	0.727	0.920	1.156	1.476	2.015	2.571	3.365	4.032	5.893	6.869
6	0.000	0.718	0.906	1.134	1.440	1.943	2.447	3.143	3.707	5.208	5.959
7	0.000	0.711	0.896	1.119	1.415	1.895	2.365	2.998	3.499	4.785	5.408
8	0.000	0.706	0.889	1.108	1.397	1.860	2.306	2.896	3.355	4.501	5.041
9	0.000	0.703	0.883	1.100	1.383	1.833	2.262	2.821	3.250	4.297	4.781
10	0.000	0.700	0.879	1.093	1.372	1.812	2.228	2.764	3.169	4.144	4.587
11	0.000	0.697	0.876	1.088	1.363	1.796	2.201	2.718	3.106	4.025	4.437
12	0.000	0.695	0.873	1.083	1.356	1.782	2.179	2.681	3.055	3.930	4.318
13	0.000	0.694	0.870	1.079	1.350	1.771	2.160	2.650	3.012	3.852	4.221
14	0.000	0.692	0.868	1.076	1.345	1.761	2.145	2.624	2.977	3.787	4.140
15	0.000	0.691	0.866	1.074	1.341	1.753	2.131	2.602	2.947	3.733	4.073
16	0.000	0.690	0.865	1.071	1.337	1.746	2.120	2.583	2.921	3.686	4.015
17	0.000	0.689	0.863	1.069	1.333	1.740	2.110	2.567	2.898	3.646	3.965
18	0.000	0.688	0.862	1.067	1.330	1.734	2.101	2.552	2.878	3.610	3.922
19	0.000	0.688	0.861	1.066	1.328	1.729	2.093	2.539	2.861	3.579	3.883
20	0.000	0.687	0.860	1.064	1.325	1.725	2.086	2.528	2.845	3.552	3.850
21	0.000	0.686	0.859	1.063	1.323	1.721	2.080	2.518	2.831	3.527	3.819
22	0.000	0.686	0.858	1.061	1.321	1.717	2.074	2.508	2.819	3.505	3.792
23	0.000	0.685	0.858	1.060	1.319	1.714	2.069	2.500	2.807	3.485	3.768
24	0.000	0.685	0.857	1.059	1.318	1.711	2.064	2.492	2.797	3.467	3.745
25	0.000	0.684	0.856	1.058	1.316	1.708	2.060	2.485	2.787	3.450	3.725
26	0.000	0.684	0.856	1.058	1.315	1.706	2.056	2.479	2.779	3.435	3.707
27	0.000	0.684	0.855	1.057	1.314	1.703	2.052	2.473	2.771	3.421	3.690
28	0.000	0.683	0.855	1.056	1.313	1.701	2.048	2.467	2.763	3.408	3.674
29	0.000	0.683	0.854	1.055	1.311	1.699	2.045	2.462	2.756	3.396	3.659
30	0.000	0.683	0.854	1.055	1.310	1.697	2.042	2.457	2.750	3.385	3.646
40	0.000	0.681	0.851	1.050	1.303	1.684	2.021	2.423	2.704	3.307	3.551
60	0.000	0.679	0.848	1.045	1.296	1.671	2.000	2.390	2.660	3.232	3.460
80	0.000	0.678	0.846	1.043	1.292	1.664	1.990	2.374	2.639	3.195	3.416
100	0.000	0.677	0.845	1.042	1.290	1.660	1.984	2.364	2.626	3.174	3.390
1000	0.000	0.675	0.842	1.037	1.282	1.646	1.962	2.330	2.581	3.098	3.300
Z	0.000	0.674	0.842	1.036	1.282	1.645	1.960	2.326	2.576	3.090	3.291
	0%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	95%	98%	99%	99.8%	99.9%
	Confidence Level										

Chi-square Distribution

df\area	.995	.990	.975	.950	.900	.750	.500	.250	.100	.050	.025	.010	.005
1	0.00004	0.00016	0.00098	0.00393	0.01579	0.10153	0.45494	1.32330	2.70554	3.84146	5.02389	6.63490	7.87944
2	0.01003	0.02010	0.05064	0.10259	0.21072	0.57536	1.38629	2.77259	4.60517	5.99146	7.37776	9.21034	10.59663
3	0.07172	0.11483	0.21580	0.35185	0.58437	1.21253	2.36597	4.10834	6.25139	7.81473	9.34840	11.34487	12.83816
4	0.20699	0.29711	0.48442	0.71072	1.06362	1.92256	3.35669	5.38527	7.77944	9.48773	11.14329	13.27670	14.86026
5	0.41174	0.55430	0.83121	1.14548	1.61031	2.67460	4.35146	6.62568	9.23636	11.07050	12.83250	15.08627	16.74960
6	0.67573	0.87209	1.23734	1.63538	2.20413	3.45460	5.34812	7.84080	10.64464	12.59159	14.44938	16.81189	18.54758
7	0.98926	1.23904	1.68987	2.16735	2.83311	4.25485	6.34581	9.03715	12.01704	14.06714	16.01276	18.47531	20.27774
8	1.34441	1.64650	2.17973	2.73264	3.48954	5.07064	7.34412	10.21885	13.36157	15.50731	17.53455	20.09024	21.95495
9	1.73493	2.08790	2.70039	3.32511	4.16816	5.89883	8.34283	11.38875	14.68366	16.91898	19.02277	21.66599	23.58935
10	2.15586	2.55821	3.24697	3.94030	4.86518	6.73720	9.34182	12.54886	15.98718	18.30704	20.48318	23.20925	25.18818
11	2.60322	3.05348	3.81575	4.57481	5.57778	7.58414	10.34100	13.70069	17.27501	19.67514	21.92005	24.72497	26.75685
12	3.07382	3.57057	4.40379	5.22603	6.30380	8.43842	11.34032	14.84540	18.54935	21.02607	23.33666	26.21697	28.29952
13	3.56503	4.10692	5.00875	5.89186	7.04150	9.29907	12.33976	15.98391	19.81193	22.36203	24.73560	27.68825	29.81947
14	4.07467	4.66043	5.62873	6.57063	7.78953	10.16531	13.33927	17.11693	21.06414	23.68479	26.11895	29.14124	31.31935
15	4.60092	5.22935	6.26214	7.26094	8.54676	11.03654	14.33886	18.24509	22.30713	24.99579	27.48839	30.57791	32.80132
16	5.14221	5.81221	6.90766	7.96165	9.31224	11.91222	15.33850	19.36886	23.54183	26.29623	28.84535	31.99993	34.26719
17	5.69722	6.40776	7.56419	8.67176	10.08519	12.79193	16.33818	20.48868	24.76904	27.58711	30.19101	33.40866	35.71847
18	6.26480	7.01491	8.23075	9.39046	10.86494	13.67529	17.33790	21.60489	25.98942	28.86930	31.52638	34.80531	37.15645
19	6.84397	7.63273	8.90652	10.11701	11.65091	14.56200	18.33765	22.71781	27.20357	30.14353	32.85233	36.19087	38.58226
20	7.43384	8.26040	9.59078	10.85081	12.44261	15.45177	19.33743	23.82769	28.41198	31.41043	34.16961	37.56623	39.99685
21	8.03365	8.89720	10.28290	11.59131	13.23960	16.34438	20.33723	24.93478	29.61509	32.67057	35.47888	38.93217	41.40106
22	8.64272	9.54249	10.98232	12.33801	14.04149	17.23962	21.33704	26.03927	30.81328	33.92444	36.78071	40.28936	42.79565
23	9.26042	10.19572	11.68855	13.09051	14.84796	18.13730	22.33688	27.14134	32.00690	35.17246	38.07563	41.63840	44.18128
24	9.88623	10.85636	12.40115	13.84843	15.65868	19.03725	23.33673	28.24115	33.19624	36.41503	39.36408	42.97982	45.55851
25	10.51965	11.52398	13.11972	14.61141	16.47341	19.93934	24.33659	29.33885	34.38159	37.65248	40.64647	44.31410	46.92789
26	11.16024	12.19815	13.84390	15.37916	17.29188	20.84343	25.33646	30.43457	35.56317	38.88514	41.92317	45.64168	48.28988
27	11.80759	12.87850	14.57338	16.15140	18.11390	21.74940	26.33634	31.52841	36.74122	40.11327	43.19451	46.96294	49.64492
28	12.46134	13.56471	15.30786	16.92788	18.93924	22.65716	27.33623	32.62049	37.91592	41.33714	44.46079	48.27824	50.99338
29	13.12115	14.25645	16.04707	17.70837	19.76774	23.56659	28.33613	33.71091	39.08747	42.55697	45.72229	49.58788	52.33562
30	13.78672	14.95346	16.79077	18.49266	20.59923	24.47761	29.33603	34.79974	40.25602	43.77297	46.97924	50.89218	53.67196