INSTRUCTIONS: Answer 4 questions, following the instructions below.

1. A drug company running a clinical trial to test the effectiveness of a new drug they have developed to treat depression. They recruit a sample of chronically depressed out-patients from a local clinic. The patients are randomly assigned to an experimental or control group. The control group get the new drug, whereas the experimental group get a placebo. Drugs are self-administered. Depression is measured before the trial starts and again after a 6 week course of drugs is completed.

Discuss the threats to internal and external validity of this study. How could you improve the design? (25 marks)

2. Critically discuss how the qualitative research paradigm addresses issues of validity, reliability and generalisability (25 marks)

Answer EITHER question 3 or 4

3. Discuss the key characteristics of a quantitative research design sampling approach OR a qualitative research design approach. Use an example to illustrate your answer. (25 marks)

OR

4. In the lecture we mentioned 7 steps that should be followed in a survey project. Discuss them using an example. (25 marks)

Answer EITHER question 5, 6, or 7

5. Describe the design of a case-control study and discuss the key issues involved in the selection of cases and controls (25 marks)

OR
6. Describe the design of a retrospective cohort study, discuss the problems associated with this design and illustrate your answer with a few examples of research questions for which this design is suited. (25 marks)

OR

7. Provide a detailed “ideal” research design for a research question of your choice in the field of psychology or mental health that is of interest to public health. Substantiate why the question has relevance for public health with reference to previous research. (25 marks)
INSTRUCTIONS: Answer 4 questions, following the instructions below

1. Describe and contrast descriptive, relational and experimental (and quasi-experimental) research designs. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each type of research design. (25 marks)

2. Kvale (1996) argues that the qualitative research paradigm has rejected positivist notions of generalisability, reliability and validity. Critically discuss his suggestions for an alternative way of dealing with these concepts in qualitative research. (25 marks)

Answer either question 3 or 4

3. Discuss the key features of probability and non-probability sampling. Also include in your discussion some of the challenges encountered in sampling. (25 marks)

OR

4. The South African Tourism Department is interested in conducting monthly surveys assessing the travel and expenditure patterns of departing foreign visitors in addition to gaining information on which sites and attractions were visited. This project is set to run from April 2006 till March 2009. Assuming you have been commissioned to conduct the entire project, detail how you would go about designing the survey. Give a detailed discussion of sampling and explanation of how the data will be collected, probable survey questions and reflections of the reliability and validity of the measure. (25 marks)
Answer either question 5 or 6

5. Describe a randomised controlled trial study design, discuss the problems associated with this design and illustrate your answer with a few examples of intervention study research question for which this design is suited.

(25 marks)

OR

6. Provide a detailed “ideal” research design for a research question in psychology or mental health that is of interest for public health.

(25 marks)