

Maulana Azad National Urdu University

Programme: MA English

II Semester Examination, April /May-2026

Course Title: **Research and Academic Skills**

Course Code : **MAEN203DST**

Time: **3 Hours**

Total Marks: **70**

Note: This question paper consists of (3) parts: Part – A, Part-B and Part-C. Number of words to answer each question is only indicative. Attempt all parts.

Part–A contains (10) compulsory questions of multiple choice/fill in the blank/very short answer type question. Answer all questions. Each question carries (1) mark. **(10x1=10-marks)**

Part-B contains (8) questions of which students are supposed to answer (5) questions. Answer each question in approximately 200 words. Each question carries 06 marks. **(5x6=30 marks)**

Part-C contains (5) questions of which students are supposed to answer (3) questions. Answer each question in approximately 500 words. Each question carries (10) marks. **(3x10=30 marks)**

Part-A

1. Answer all questions.

i. Which of the following best describes a research gap?

- a. A missing reference b. An unexplored issue in existing studies c. A weak conclusion d. A long bibliography

ii. Which section of a research proposal explains *why* the study is needed?

- a. Methodology b. Rationale c. References d. Appendix

iii. Which of the following is an example of MLA in-text citation?

- a. (Smith, 2020) b. Smith (2020: 45) c. (Smith 45) d. [Smith, p. 45]

iv. Which tool is most suitable for collecting opinions from a group discussion?

- a. Corpus b. Focus group c. Graph d. Checklist

v. Which of the following best represents quantitative data?

- a. Interview responses b. Numerical scores c. Personal opinions d. Observations

vi. Which of the following is NOT a stage of research writing?

- a. Drafting b. Revising c. Publishing immediately d. Editing

vii. Which of the following ensures academic honesty?

- a. Paraphrasing without citation b. Proper referencing c. Copying sources d. Avoiding sources

viii. A corpus in language research is:

- a. A research question b. A collection of texts c. A theory d. A conclusion

ix. Which of the following improves audience understanding in presentations?

- a. Complex sentences b. Clear organization c. Reading directly from notes d. No examples

x. Which of the following is essential before submitting a research paper?

- a. Adding more pages b. Proofreading c. Changing topic d. Removing references

Part-B

2. How can a researcher move from a general area of interest to a specific researchable topic?
3. What problems may arise if a literature review is poorly conducted?
4. Explain how a researcher selects appropriate data collection tools for a study.
5. Discuss the difference between qualitative and quantitative data with examples.
6. How can theoretical frameworks influence the interpretation of literary texts?
7. What challenges do researchers face while drafting a research paper?
8. Why is ethical awareness important in academic research? Illustrate with examples.
9. How can feedback improve the quality of a research draft?

Part-C

10. Write a research proposal on a topic of your choice related to language or literary studies.
11. Discuss the role of revision, editing, and presentation skills in producing effective academic research.
12. Examine how different approaches to literary analysis can produce different interpretations of the same text.
13. With reference to your course project, explain how you would revise and develop it into a publishable research paper.
14. Analyze the following passage using appropriate tools of literary analysis:
 “Now, what I want is, Facts. Teach these boys and girls nothing but Facts.
 Facts alone are wanted in life. Plant nothing else, and root out everything else.
 You can only form the minds of reasoning animals upon Facts; nothing else will ever be of any service to them.” (From Charles Dickens, *Hard Times*)
