* You need to submit the assignments within the stipulated time for being eligible to appear in the term-end examination.

Please obtain a receipt from the study centre for the assignments submitted and retain it. Also keep a photocopy of the assignments with you. The Study Centre will return the assignments to you after they are evaluated. The completed assignment should be sent **only** to the Coordinator of the Study Centre allotted to you.

Following instructions are to be carefully followed before writing the assignments:

1. You will find it useful to keep the following points in mind:
   - **i. Planning:** Read the assignments carefully. Go through the Units on which they are based. Make some points regarding each question and then re-arrange these in a logical order.
   - **ii. Organisation:** Read the study material carefully, analyse it, and then prepare a rough outline of your answer. Give adequate attention to your introduction and conclusion. Make sure that your answer:
     a) is logical and coherent;
     b) has clear connections between sentences and paragraphs;
     c) is written correctly giving adequate consideration to your expression, style and presentation
   - **iii. Presentation:** Once you are satisfied with your answers, you can write down the final version for submission. Write each answer neatly with proper spacing, and underline the points you wish to emphasise. Make sure that the answer is around the suggested word limit.
2. Use A4 size ruled paper for your response and tie all the pages carefully. Allow a four cm margin on the left and leave some space between each answer. This will facilitate the evaluator to write useful comments in the margin at appropriate places.
3. ***Answers should be in your own handwriting.*** Do not print or type the answers. Do not copy your answers from the study material sent to you by the University or from other learners. If you copy, you will get zero marks for the respective question.
4. You need to attach a copy of the TMA with the completed assignment before submitting it.
5. In case you have requested for a change of Study Centre, you should submit your Tutor Marked Assignments only to the original Study Centre until the change of Study Centre is notified by the University.
6. If you find that there is any factual error in evaluation of your assignments, e.g., any portion of assignment response has not been evaluated or total of score recorded on assignment response is incorrect, you should approach the coordinator of your study center for correction and transmission of correct score to headquarters.

Wish you all the best!

Discipline of Psychology
SOSS, IGNOU, New Delhi

STATISTICAL METHODS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH (BPCC 134)

Tutor Marked Assignments (TMA)

Course Code: BPCC134
Assignment Code: Asst /TMA /July 2026- January 2027
Total Marks: 70

NOTE: All assignments are compulsory.

Instructions:

1. Have a title page. Include details like Name, Enrolment number, Email id, Regional Centre, Study Centre, Programme Title and code, Course title and code.
2. Use A4 size paper for the tutorial (ruled/ bank).
3. For making tables, blank pages can be used and tables/ graphs (if any) to be drawn in pencil.
4. Content should not be plagiarised.

Assignment One

Answer the following questions in about 500 words each (wherever applicable). Each question carries 20 marks.

2 x 20 = 40

1. Describe various methods of qualitative research.

2. Compute Pearson's product moment correlation for the following data:

Individu-als	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**H**	**I**	**J**
Variable 1	2	3	1	4	5	6	7	2	3	4
Variable 2	4	3	5	6	2	3	4	5	6	6

Assignment Two

Answer the following questions in about 100 words each (wherever applicable). Each question carries 5 marks.

6 x 5 = 30

3. Explain the concept of sampling.

4. Describe case study as a method of data collection.

5. Describe histogram with the help of a diagram.

6. Compute mean, medin, mode and standard deviation for the following data:

35	46	54	78	54	23	29

7. Describe the scales of measurement with suitable examples.

8. Explain the concept of normal probability distribution with help of suitable diagram.

NOTE: Please note that the assignment is out of 70 marks and 30 marks are for practicals.

1. Describe various methods of qualitative research.

Answer

Qualitative research is a systematic approach to understanding how people interpret their experiences, relationships and social worlds. Rather than treating every feature of experience as a number, it investigates meanings, beliefs, practices, emotions and the circumstances in which behaviour occurs. In psychological research, it is especially useful when a topic is poorly understood, when participants' perspectives matter, or when a survey score alone cannot explain why people act as they do. Researchers typically collect words, narratives, observations and documents, analyse patterns in them and make their interpretations explicit. Several important qualitative methods are discussed below.

In-depth interviews

In-depth interviewing involves a purposeful conversation in which participants describe their experiences in their own terms. A structured interview uses standard questions; a semi-structured interview combines prepared prompts with follow-up questions; and an unstructured interview allows a more open conversation. For example, a psychologist studying students' examination anxiety might ask what situations trigger worry, how anxiety affects sleep and what support students find useful. Probing questions such as "Could you describe a particular incident?" reveal details that fixed responses may miss. Interviews can yield rich individual accounts, but they require careful listening, informed consent and recognition that an interviewer's assumptions may affect responses.

Focus-group discussions

A focus group brings a small group of participants together to discuss a selected topic under a moderator's guidance. The interaction itself is valuable: participants may agree, disagree, recall forgotten examples and reveal shared social norms. In a study of attitudes towards counselling, for instance, group members may discuss stigma, trust and barriers to seeking professional help. A moderator encourages quieter members and prevents one speaker from controlling the discussion. The method efficiently gathers diverse views, although confidentiality is harder to guarantee and conformity pressures may silence unpopular opinions. It is not intended to measure the prevalence of an opinion in the population.