**Lesson two:** Characteristics and objectives of research

**Controlled:**

The concept of control implies that, in exploring causality in relation to two variables, you set up your study in a way that minimises the effects of other factors affecting the relationship.

**Rigorous:**

You must be scrupulous in ensuring that the procedures followed to find answers to questions are relevant, appropriate and justified.

**Systematic:**

This implies that the procedures adopted to undertake an investigation follow a certain logical sequence. The different steps cannot be taken in a haphazard way.

**Valid and verifiable:**

This concept implies whatever you conclude on the basis of your findings is correct and can be verified by you and others.

**Empirical:**

This means that any conclusions drawn are based upon hard evidence gathered from information collected from observations.

**Critical:**

Critical scrutiny of the procedures used and the methods employed is crucial to a research enquiry. The process of investigation must be foolproof and free from any drawbacks.

**Objectives of research:**

To answer questions and acquire new knowledge.

To find solutions to scientific and social problems through objective and systematic analysis.

To lead to new contributions to the existing knowledge and make progress in a field.