

University of Swaziland  
Faculty of Humanities &  
Institute of Distance Education  
Department of Theology & Religious Studies

**2015/2016 Main Examination Paper Second Semester, May**

Course Code : TRS 300  
Course Title : Research Methodology  
Duration : 2 hrs

**Instructions**

- a. Choose and answer three (3) questions.
- b. Make sure you accurately label the questions you have opted to answer.
- c. Write in clear and grammatically correct sentences.
- d. Indicate on the cover page of your answer script the name of your programme of study and whether you are a fulltime or IDE student.

**\*NB:** All questions are worth 25 marks.

**DO NOT OPEN THIS EXAMINATION PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR  
GRANTS YOU PERMISSION TO DO SO.**

**Question 1**

Explain why it is more appropriate to conceive the research task as cyclical rather than linear.

**Question 2**

Discuss the cognitive and non-cognitive skills that can be acquired from doing undergraduate research.

**Question 3**

Identify the ways in which the ethical violations of plagiarism, data fabrication and manipulation defeat the goals of research.

**Question 4**

From the following hypothetical submissions of research questions, identify those that are well formulated and those that are not. Provide an explanation for your opinion in each case.

- The underlying spirituality of tombstone unveiling ceremonies
- Rituals in Swazi Religion
- Training of a *Sangoma*
- Reception history of the Bible in Swaziland
- Impact of intermittent class boycotts on students' exam performance

**Question 5**

Explain the respective role of the following components in a research proposal:

- Title
- Background of the study
- Literature review
- Methodology
- Limitations

**Question 6**

Choose the appropriate data collection methods for the following hypothetical studies:

- UNISWA students' interpretation of the university's mission and vision statements
- Rethinking the belief in the rainmaking powers of the Magagulas and Dlamini in Swazi Religion from a multi-disciplinary perspective
- An assessment of the role of Christian missions in the establishment of school education in Swaziland
- Factors inhibiting the integration of modern and indigenous health-care systems in Swaziland

- A case study of the ideological use religion by Swazi political elites

### Question 7

“Facts never speak for themselves. What they say depends upon the questions we ask. (Greenbank (2003: 792). Elaborate on this observation with regard to analysing data and discussing findings in a research report.

### Question 8

Draw relevant conclusions from the following findings of a study on “Views of church leaders of the League of African Churches in Swaziland (LACS) on the relationship between religion and politics”:

- Religion and politics should not be mixed (*inkholo netembusave akuhlangani*)
- Appointment of Christian pastors into parliament and cabinet is not political participation but “*kusebentela iNkosi yetfu*” (to serve the king)
- Pastors who express political opinions are under the influence of foreign organisations (*bafundisi labakhuluma tembusave baphetfwe ngumoya wetinhlangano tekukamba*)
- Christians who support the call for a multi-party political dispensation are involved in a devilish conspiracy to usurp the throne (*emakholwa lasekela umcondvo lotsi lelive alibuswe ngemaphathi ahlanganyela ecebeni lebusathane lekufuna kutsatsa umbuso webukhosi*)
- The draft constitution clause that proclaimed Christianity as the official religion of Swaziland ought to have been retained in the final constitution of Swaziland
- The Bible condemns democracy (*liBhayibheli liyayicitsa i democracy*)