UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
& PLANNING

FINAL EXAMINATION, MAY 2006

B.A., BASS, B.Ed. B.Sc.

TITLE OF PAPER :   RESEARCH METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY

COURSE CODE   :   GEP 323

TIME ALLOWED :   THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS   :   ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS
                    INCLUDING QUESTION ONE (1)
                    WHICH IS COMPULSORY.

MARK ALLOCATION: QUESTION ONE (1) CARRIES 40 MARKS.
                  THE REST OF QUESTIONS CARRY 30
                  MARKS EACH.

THIS PAPER SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISION HAS
BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

SECTION A: COMPULSORY QUESTION (40 MARKS)

QUESTION 1

a) Suppose a researcher wants to investigate the nutritional status of rural children aged below five (5) years in the whole country, using a sample of 2,000 children. However, there is no list or information available either at the national or district level.

   i)   How would you go about deriving a cluster sample for this study?
                                                              (20 marks)

   ii)   What are the advantages of using cluster sampling over the other types?   (10 marks)

b) (i) Explain the difference between random sampling and random assignment.   (4 marks)

   (ii) How random sampling and random assignment are related to internal and external validity? (6 marks)

                                                              [40 marks]

QUESTION 2

Discuss the logic and advantages of using:
   i)   Longitudinal research designs, and
   ii)   Pre-experimental designs.   (30 marks)

QUESTION 3

A researcher wants to compare the new method (IGSCE) of teaching science to Form I pupils, with the old method (Cambridge 'O'level) and also wants to determine if boys and girls would perform differently.
   i)   Identify and describe the most appropriate research design.
                                                              (10 marks)
   ii)   Design the study and use the appropriate notation.
                                                              (20 marks)

QUESTION 4

Using examples compare and contrast the survey method with true-experimental research designs.   (30 marks)

QUESTION 5

a) Explain the main purpose of a research proposal.   (10 marks)

b) Using your own research proposal study, outline and discuss its main sections.   (20 marks)

[30 marks]