UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PLANNING

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, JULY 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

QUESTION 1

Suppose a community establishes an alcohol-and drug–free teenager centre as a way of reducing the use of alcohol and drugs by teenagers:

a)   Describe how you might go about evaluating the effectiveness of the center.   (10 Marks)

b)   Explain whether your design would be experimental, quasi-experimental, qualitative, or a combination of these.

(20 marks)

c)   Explain how you would address issues of validity and reliability in such a study.   (10 marks)

(40 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS.

QUESTION 2

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of surveys in relation to experiments, with respect to rationale, methods as well as validity and reliability.

(30 marks)

QUESTION 3

Using examples:
   a) Explain how the pre-test-post-test control design adequately controls for each of the major threats to internal validity.

(20 marks)

   b) Explain the circumstances in which this research is most appropriate.

(10 marks)

(30 marks)

QUESTION 4

a) Distinguish between cross-sectional and longitudinal surveys. (10 marks)

b) Using examples, explain how interviews provide greater flexibility than self-administered questionnaires. (20 marks)

(30 marks)

QUESTION 5

a) Describe four considerations affecting the selection of a sampling design and indicate how each affects design selection. (16 marks)

b) Identify three factors to consider in determining sample size, and explain how each factor affects the decision about sample size. (14 marks)

(30 marks)