

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
& PLANNING**

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER DECEMBER 2006

B.A., BASS., B.ED., & B.Sc

TITLE OF PAPER : RESEARCH METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY

COURSE NUMBER : GEP 323

TIME ALLOWED : THREE HOURS

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

**2. WHERE APPROPRIATE, ILLUSTRATE
YOUR ANSWER WITH EXAMPLES.**

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

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS
BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

SECTION A: COMPULSORY QUESTION

QUESTION 1

As part of the course requirement, you were required to develop a research proposal. For your chosen research proposal you selected a research design. Justify the selection of your design by:

- (a) Stating which research design or combination of designs you have selected. (5 marks)
- (b) Formulate your research problem in terms of units of analysis, research goal, hypothesis or research questions and justification. (15 marks)
- (b) Discuss the design, making specific reference to the research topic. (20 marks)

[40 marks]

SECTION B: ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS.

QUESTION 2

- (a) Describe the concept of measurement in research (10 marks)
- (b) Explain why measurement is important to scientific research. (10 marks)
- (c) Using examples, explain how the concept of validity arises in social research. (10 marks)

[30 marks]

QUESTION 3

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of mail questionnaires, telephone interviews and personal interviews. **[30 marks]**

QUESTION 4

- (a) Discuss the major ethical issues that arise in scientific research. (15 marks)
- (b) Using examples explain how researchers are expected to address these ethical issues. (15 marks)
- [30 marks]**

QUESTION 5

- (a) Discuss the role of the null hypothesis and the research hypothesis in the logic of hypothesis testing. (10 marks)
- (b) 'In order to move from the conceptual to the empirical level, concepts are converted into *variables*.' Discuss. (20 marks)
- [30 marks]**