

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER JULY 2007**

**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.**

**GEP 323 RESEARCH METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY JULY 2007**

**SECTION A: COMPULSORY QUESTION**

QUESTION 1

- (a) Describe the basic techniques of survey data collection. (20 marks)
- (b) Discuss the logistical considerations necessary when conducting surveys. (20 marks)

**[40 marks]**

**SECTION B: ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS**

QUESTION 2

Using examples, explain how experimental designs differ from pre-experimental designs. **[30 marks]**

QUESTION 3

- (a) Discuss the major types of probability sampling. (20 marks)
- (b) Using examples, describe their strengths and weaknesses. (10 marks)

**[30 marks]**

QUESTION 4

- (a) Explain the threats to internal validity in a research study. (10 marks)
- (b) Discuss how the problems of validity and reliability are addressed in a quasi-experimental design. (20 marks)

**[30 marks]**

QUESTION 5

Using examples, discuss the main differences between qualitative and quantitative research. **[30 marks]**