

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

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER DECEMBER 2009

B.A., BASS, Beds. & B.Sc

TITLE OF PAPER : RESEARCH METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY

COURSE TITLE : GEP 323

TIME ALLOWED : THREE HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS : SECTION A IS COMPULSORY.
ANSWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM
SECTION B.
ILLUSTRATE YOUR ANSWERS WITH
APPROPRIATE DIAGRAMS.**

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

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

GEP 323 RESEARCH METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY

SECTION A: COMPULSORY QUESTION (40 MARKS)

QUESTION 1

- a) As part of the course requirement, you were required to develop a research proposal. Referring to your chosen research study do the following:
- (i) Briefly describe the study, paying particular attention to the problem statement, research questions, objectives and the methodology. (15 marks)
 - (ii) Explain the sampling method used and sample size. (7 marks)
 - (iii) Describe the types of variables in the study. (3 marks)
 - (iv) Describe the measurement scales used in the operationalization of the variables. (7 marks)
 - (v) Justify why the scales used were the most appropriate for the study (8 marks)
- [40 marks]**

SECTION B: ANSWER TWO QUESTION FROM THIS SECTION.

QUESTION 2

The Ministry of Health has commissioned you undertake research on children who are AIDS patients in all the hospitals in the country.

- (i) Explain the logistical issues which you need to consider. (15 marks)
 - (ii) Discuss the ethical considerations you have to consider. (15 marks)
- [30 marks]**

QUESTION 3

- a) Describe the criteria for evaluating research questions. (15 marks)
- b) Explain the purpose of a research proposal. (15 marks)

[30 marks]

QUESTION 4

Explain how experiments provide the type of evidence required to establish causality. **[30 marks]**

QUESTION 5

- a) Using examples, discuss the logic of factorial designs. (20 marks)
- b) Discuss the advantages of using factorial over non-factorial experimental designs. (10 marks)
- [30 marks]**