

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND
PLANNING**

FINAL EXAMINATION, MAY 2014

MSc

TITLE OF PAPER : GEP RESEARCH TECHNIQUES

COURSE NUMBER : ERM 625

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS : ANSWER TWO (2) QUESTIONS
ILLUSTRATE YOUR ANSWERS WITH
APPROPRIATE DIAGRAMS**

MARK ALLOCATION : EACH QUESTION CARRIES FIFTY (50) MARKS

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

ANSWER TWO (2) QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1

Using examples and diagrams where appropriate, discuss the links between:

- (a) Science, scientific knowledge, scientific research and scientific method. (14 marks)
- (b) Concepts, constructs and variables. (12 marks)
- (c) Theory, postulate, propositions and hypothesis. (12 marks)
- (d) Research, thesis, research question and hypothesis. (12 marks)

[50 Marks]

QUESTION 2

- (a) Draw a diagram which summarizes a functionalist research process. (5 marks)
- (b) Using an example explain how you would conduct the following phases of the research process:
 - i. Exploration (10 marks)
 - ii. Research design (15 marks)
 - iii. Research execution (15 marks)
- (c) Discuss the common mistakes likely to be made in conducting research. (5 marks)

[50 Marks]

QUESTION 3

- (a) Explain why we need to do a literature review (15 marks)
- (b) Using an example, explain how you will write the following parts of the literature review for your study:
 - i. Introduction (5 marks)
 - ii. Body of literature review (5 marks)
 - iii. Conclusion (5 marks)
- (c) Using the example used in (b) above write the problem statement for the study. (20 marks)

[50 Marks]

QUESTION 4

Using examples explain the following:

- (a) How you will formulate and statistically test your research hypothesis. (20 marks)
- (b) How you will assess your research in the process of question refinement to ensure you are coming out with an interesting and justifiable research. (10 marks)
- (c) The steps you will follow in selecting a research topic and narrowing it down. (10 marks)
- (d) The qualities of a good research question. (10 marks)

[50 Marks]