

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

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

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION- JULY 2017

B.A, BASS, B.Ed. & B.Sc.

TITLE OF PAPER: RESEARCH METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY

COURSE CODE: GEP 323

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS**
- 2. QUESTION 1 IS COMPULSORY**
- 3. ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS FROM
SECTION B**
- 4. WHERE APPROPRIATE, ILLUSTRATE YOUR
ANSWERS WITH DIAGRAMS AND EXAMPLES**

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

**THIS QUESTION PAPER SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS
BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR**

GEP 323 RESEARCH METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY - JULY 2017**SECTION A: COMPULSORY QUESTION****QUESTION 1**

a) Compare and contrast cross-sectional study design with longitudinal design with regard to the following perspectives:

i) Number of contacts with the study population. (6 marks)

ii) Reference period of study. (6 marks)

iii) Nature of the investigation. (10 marks)

b) Using examples, explain the functions of a research design. (8 marks)

c) Discuss three factors affecting the choice of a sampling design. (10 marks)

(40 Marks)

QUESTION 2

‘Researchers seldom study the entire population; they invariably must choose a sample of the population which can result in several types of errors.’

a) Using examples identify and describe these types of errors. (15 marks)

b) For each type of error identified in (a) explain how researchers can minimize the error.

(15 marks)

(30 Marks)

QUESTION 3

‘Three of the most prominent criteria for the evaluation of social research are: reliability, replication and validity.’ Discuss the validity of this statement. **(30 Marks)**

QUESTION 4

“Having analysed the data, the next step is to present findings effectively to readers. The main purpose of using data display techniques is to make the findings clear and easily understood.”(Kumar, 1996:226).

Identify and describe three methods researchers use to display analysed data. **(30 Marks)**

QUESTION 5

- a) Distinguish between a concept and a variable. (4 marks)
- b) Explain the logic of understanding variables in a research study. (6 marks)
- c) Explain the main reasons why researchers are preoccupied with measurement in quantitative research. (10 marks)
- d) 'From the viewpoint of the unit of measurement, there are two ways of categorizing variables.' Identify and describe these types of variables. (10 marks)
- (30 Marks)**