

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND PLANNING

FINAL EXAMINATION – DECEMBER 2017

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

TITLE OF PAPER: RESEARCH METHODS

COURSE CODE: GEP 313/323

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

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

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

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

GEP 313 RESEARCH METHODS - DECEMBER 2017

SECTION A: COMPULSORY QUESTION

QUESTION 1

- a) Identify and describe three (3) types of pre-experimental designs. (20 marks)
- b) Using examples, explain the classical experimental research design. (10 marks)
- c) 'Pre-experimental and quasi-experimental designs are susceptible to problems of internal validity.' Discuss the validity of this statement. (10 marks)
- (40 Marks)**

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION

QUESTION 2

- a) Identify and discuss two methods of collecting data using primary sources. (12 marks)
- b) Using examples, describe the factors affecting the choice of a method for data collection. (18 marks)
- (30 Marks)**

QUESTION 3

- a) Using examples, explain why researchers need to develop operational definitions when conducting research. (8 marks)
- b) Distinguish between explanatory and extraneous variables. (10 marks)
- c) Identify and explain four (4) types of extraneous variables. (12 marks)
- (30 Marks)**

QUESTION 4

- a) Using examples describe the necessary conditions when a researcher should use the survey method to collect data. (10 marks)
- b) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using surveys. (20 marks)
- (30 Marks)**

QUESTION 5

a) 'Research is a process for collecting, analysing and interpreting information to answer questions. However, to qualify as research the process must have certain characteristics.'
Using examples identify and describe these characteristics. (12 Marks)

b) 'If you examine a research study from the perspective of its objectives broadly, a research endeavour can be classified as: descriptive, correlational and explanatory.'

Discuss the validity of this statement. (18 marks)

(30 Marks)