

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND PLANNING
MAIN EXAMINATION-DECEMBER 2018

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

TITLE OF PAPER: RESEARCH METHODS

COURSE CODE: GEP 313

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 ANSWER WITH DIAGRAMS AND EXAMPLES

MARKS ALLOCATION:

QUESTION ONE (1) CARRIES 40 MARKS THE REST OF THE QUESTIONS CARRY 30 MARKS EACH.

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

GEP 313 RESEARCH METHODS – DECEMBER 2018

SECTION A: COMPULSORY

QUESTION 1

- a) Identify and describe any five key factors, a researcher must consider when formulating a research problem. (25 marks)
 - b) Using examples explain what is meant by ecological fallacy and why it is an important consideration when drawing conclusions from findings in a study (10 marks)
 - c) Define validity and reliability in research. (5 marks)
- (40 Marks)**

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION

QUESTION 2

- a) Using examples describe causality between variables as a basis for scientific research questions. (20 marks)
 - b) Using examples, distinguish between cohort and cross-sectional research designs. (10 marks)
- (30 Marks)**

QUESTION 3

- a) Discuss the difference between probability and non-probability sampling. (10 marks)
 - b) How is a census different from a survey sampling? (5 marks)
 - c) Distinguish between systematic random sampling and stratified random sampling. (5 marks)
 - d) Using examples, describe under which circumstances you would consider cluster sampling. (10 marks)
- (30 Marks)**

QUESTION 4

Identify and discuss sources of error in geographic data collection, and show what measures you would take to minimize those errors. (30 Marks)

QUESTION 5

- a) Discuss the importance of setting standards for scientific data collection. (15 marks)
 - b) Describe some of the characteristics of geographic data (15 marks)
- (30 Marks)**