



UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER

**PROGRAMME: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL
ECONOMICS AND AGRIBUSINESS
MANAGEMENT YEAR IV**

COURSE CODE: AEM 305

TITLE OF PAPER: RESEARCH METHODS

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTION: 1. ANSWER ALL FOUR (4) QUESTIONS

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GRANTED BY THE CHIEF INVIGILATOR**

QUESTION ONE (25 MARKS)

In question one; please write the letter that corresponds to the best answer for each of the questions. Each question carries 2.5marks.

1. Which of the following would be an example of applied research?
 - a) Research to satisfy intellectual curiosity
 - b) Research on a problem in need of improvement
 - c) Research aimed at understanding the population
 - d) Research conducted for theoretical purposes

2. Which of the following is the definition of empirical?
 - a) Consistent with common sense
 - b) Contradictory to common sense
 - c) Something that is known to be true
 - d) Something grounded on observation and experience

3. What does it mean when it is said scientific knowledge is transmissible
 - a) It means data were collected by a team of researchers
 - b) it means that scientific knowledge is normative
 - c) it means that research can be analysed and replicated
 - d) it means research is original

4. Which of the following is not a building block of social scientific research
 - a) Induction
 - b) Hypothesis
 - c) Concept
 - d) Variable

5. Which one is the definition of a hypothesis?

- a) A statement proposing the relationship between two or more concepts
- b) A statement proposing a relationship between two or more variables
- c) A statement consisting of an educated guess about a phenomenon
- d) A statement that is empirically specific about some phenomenon

6. The difference between explanations and predictions in science is that:

- a) Predictions are testable, explanations are not
- b) Predictions involve logical deduction, explanations involve logical induction
- c) Explanations refer to past and present, predictions refer to the future
- d) Explanations have been empirically verified, predictions have not

7. Which of the following is the best statement of a hypothesis?

- a) Women tend to receive less pay than men for the same work
- b) Men are usually less religious than women
- c) Happiness is related to intelligence
- d) The greater the distance between observations, the relevant are the results

8. A characteristic, attribute, or behaviour of an individual that takes on different values for different individuals and can be measured or observed" best defines which of the following?

- a) Research question
- b) Theory
- c) Concept
- d) Variable

9. In a scholarly journal article or research report, where would you expect to find how the researcher operationalized the variables?

- a) Abstract
- b) Literature review
- c) Methodology
- d) Discussion

10. The scientific process:

- a) Always start with theory and ends with research
- b) Involves a continuous interaction of theory and research
- c) Always starts with research, out of which theories are built
- d) Is an orderly procedure for making systematic observations

QUESTION TWO

- a) Briefly discuss the main components of a research proposal (15 MARKS)
- b) Why is it important to have a research proposal before one conducts research? (10 MARKS).

QUESTION THREE

- a) What is a research problem? Briefly discuss the importance of a properly stated research problem when preparing a research proposal (13 MARKS).
- (b) Discuss any three types of research you have learnt about in class (12 MARKS)

QUESTION FOUR

- a) Discuss the role of literature review when conducting research (10 MARKS).
- b) What is sampling? Discuss any two methods of probability sampling and any two methods of non-probability sampling (15 MARKS).