



**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER**

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

**COURSE CODE: AEM 305**

**TITLE OF PAPER: RESEARCH METHODS**

**TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTION: 1. ANSWER ALL FOUR (4) QUESTIONS**

**DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN  
GRANTED BY THE CHIEF INVIGILATOR**

**QUESTION ONE**

List and discuss the main components of a research proposal (25 MARKS)

**QUESTION TWO**

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 designs you have learnt about in class (12 MARKS)

**QUESTION THREE**

a) Discuss the functions of a research proposal (10 MARKS).

b) Explain why using a sample is preferred to using a census, and further discuss any three methods of sampling (15 MARKS)

**QUESTION FOUR**

a) Briefly discuss the main issues that a researcher should take into account when developing a survey questionnaire (10 MARKS).

b) Discuss any three (3) methods of collecting survey data and indicate the strengths and weaknesses of each. (15 MARKS).