



2ndSEM.2011/2012

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**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER**

**PROGRAMME: B.Sc III in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness
Management**

COURSE CODE: AEM 305

TITLE OF PAPER: RESEARCH METHODS

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

**INSTRUCTION: 1. ANSWER ANY FOUR QUESTIONS
2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES TWENTY (25) MARKS**

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THE CHIEF INVIGILATOR**

QUESTION ONE

- (a) What is research and what are the factors that inform the choice of research topic?
(15 marks)
- (b) Write briefly on the principles and standards that social researcher must comply with as a guide for a meaningful research work
(10 marks)

QUESTION TWO

Differentiate between the following concepts;

- (a) Sample and sampling frame (5 marks)
- (b) Variable and population (5 marks)
- (c) Probability sampling and non-probability sampling (5 marks)
- (d) Validity and reliability (5 marks)
- (e) Stratified random sampling and cluster sampling (5 marks)

QUESTION THREE

- (a) What are the functions of a research proposal? (10 marks)
- (b) Highlight the main challenges facing a researcher in developing a competitive proposal
(15 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- (a) What are the qualities of an effective theoretical and conceptual framework?
(7 marks)
- (b) Discuss the types of error that can affect the accuracy of a sampled data and how it can be reduced
(10 marks)
- © Discuss why level of measurement is so important in social research
(8 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

There is consensus that survey is an important tool in social science research but comes with some limitations. Discuss **(25 marks)**