



**2<sup>nd</sup> SEM. 2012/2013**

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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 ALL QUESTIONS  
2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES TWENTY (25) MARKS**

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THE CHIEF INVIGILATOR**

**QUESTION ONE**

- (a) What are the issues to be considered in taking a decision on using either probability and non-probability sampling? **(15 marks)**
- (b) What are the factors responsible for determination of the sample size? **(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 merits and limitations of a survey research? **(15 marks)**
- (b) Discuss the main challenges you are likely to face as undergraduate in developing a research proposal. **(10 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)**