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**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER**

**PROGRAMME: BSc. in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness  
Management Year 3**

**COURSE CODE: AEM 305**

**TITLE OF PAPER: RESEARCH METHODS.**

**TIME ALLOWED: 2:00 HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS: 1. ANSWER ANY 4 QUESTIONS.  
2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 25 MARKS**

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THE CHIEF INVIGILATOR**

## QUESTION ONE

- (i) What are the main criteria for selecting a research topic? (5 marks)
- (ii) Locate a research problem in your area of interest. Clearly and cogently
  - a. Write the appropriate research title based on the problem (5 marks)
  - b. Formulate relevant research problems in question form (5 marks)
  - c. State your research objectives (5 marks)
  - d. State your research hypotheses (5 marks)

## QUESTION TWO

- a. What is an indicator? (5 marks)
- b. What are the characteristics of a good indicator? (10 marks)
- c. Give two indicators of (a) food security, (b) poverty, (c) HIV/AIDS, and (d) economic development (10 marks)

## QUESTION THREE

- (i) Briefly and clearly distinguish between the following pairs of concepts (15 marks)
  - a. Reference and bibliography
  - b. Population and sample
  - c. Sampling units and sampling frame
  - d. Limitations and delimitations of a study
  - e. Justification of research and Statement of the problem
- (ii) What is the sequence of steps involved in a research project? (10 marks)

## QUESTION FOUR

- a. Describe the basic techniques of survey data collection. (10 marks)
- b. Suppose you are engaged in a research project to determine the attitudes in a small town toward welfare. You are planning to use a mailed questionnaire, and you have chosen a sample. Write the cover letter. (5 marks)

Using APA and MLA formats, write the following correctly in both formats. (10 marks)

- c. Baum, C. F. An Introduction to Modern Econometrics Using *Stata*, USA, StataCorp LP, 2006.
- d. Gujarati, D.N. and D. C. Porter, 2010. *Essentials of Econometrics*. Eds, Singapore, McGraw-Hill.
- e. M. Smith, Saka, V., and Phiri, M; Effects of Cultural Practices on Diseases of Groundnut. In R.C. Nageswara Rao and P. Subrahmanyam (Eds). *Proceedings of the Fifth Regional Workshop for Southern Africa* (pp. 97 – 103), 2002. Patancheru, India.
- f. Abdi-Khalil Edriss, 2000. 4(2), 163-170. Differential Impact of In-kind Agricultural Assistance and per Capita Net Crop Income in Subsistence Economy: The Malawi Case. *UNISWA Journal of Agriculture, Science and Technology*
- g. Author, I. (2012). Accessed on 5 October 2012. *Technology and Immediacy of Information [On-line]* Available <http://www.bnet.act.com>

## QUESTION FIVE

- a. Define tabulation and discuss the rules that must be obeyed before questionnaires are subjected to tabulation? (7 marks)
- b. Giving suitable illustrations, distinguish between a one-way tabulation and a cross-tabulation (8 marks)
- c. The following is a bivariate distribution of alienation by social status. By making a percentage comparison, assess the following hypothesis: as status increases, the degree of alienation decreases. What other measures of relationship can you use to test this hypothesis? (10 marks)

Social Status				
Alienation	Low	Medium	High	Total
High	93	41	10	144
Medium	77	78	46	201
Low	68	128	140	336
Total	238	247	196	681