

117



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

- a. What is the sequence of steps involved in a research project? (10 marks)
- b. What do you understand by literature review? (5 marks)
- c. Why is literature review important in the process of conducting a research? (5 marks)
- d. What are some of the major sources of literature? (5 marks)

QUESTION TWO

- (i) What are the main criteria for selecting a research topic? (5 marks)
- (ii) Identify a research problem in your area of interest. Clearly and cogently
 - a. Write the appropriate research title based on the problem (4 marks)
 - b. Write one sentence explaining why it appeals to you (4 marks)
 - c. Formulate relevant research problems in question form (4 marks)
 - d. State your research objectives (4 marks)
 - e. State your research hypotheses (4 marks)

QUESTION THREE

- a. Clearly distinguish between references and bibliography (5 marks)
 - b. What are the uses of references and bibliography? (5 marks)
 - c. What are the sections contained in the preliminary part of a research report? (5 marks)
 - d. Using American Psychological Association (APA) format, write the following correctly (10 marks)
- (i) Baum, C. F. *An Introduction to Modern Econometrics Using Stata, USA*, StataCorp LP, 2006.
 - (ii) Gujarati, D.N. and D. C. Porter, 2010. *Essentials of Econometrics*. Eds, Singapore, McGraw-Hill.
 - (iii) 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.
 - (iv) 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*
 - (v) Author, I. (2012). Accessed on 5 October 2012. *Technology and Immediacy of Information [On-line]* Available <http://www.bnet.act.com>

QUESTION FOUR

- a. 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. (6 marks)

- b. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of mail questionnaires, telephone interviews, and personal interviews.(12 marks)
- c. The following table describes the employment status of women in two communities. What conclusions can be drawn from absolute numbers? From the percentages? (7 marks)

	Community A		Community B	
In labour force:				
Professional	20,000	4%	20,000	10%
Skilled	45,000	9%	24,000	12%
Semiskilled	70,000	14%	28,000	14%
Unskilled	170,000	34%	28,000	14%
Not in labour force:	195,000	39%	100,000	50%
Total	500,000	100%	200,000	100%

QUESTION FIVE

From the following set of scores, select a random sample of ten scores. Do this two more times until you have a total of three separate samples of size ten.

5	1	5	5	5
1	5	1	1	1
4	5	5	5	4
2	4	2	4	4
1	2	4	5	4
2	2	3	2	3

- a. What is the mean of the entire population? (5 marks)
- b. What is the mean of the sample means? (7 marks)
- c. Suppose you are interested in testing the difference between the sample means, which statistical test would be most appropriate to use and why? (5 marks)
- d. What general steps would you take to test your hypothesis? (8 marks)