



**1<sup>st</sup> SEM. 2018/2019**

**UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI**

**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER**

**PROGRAMME: B.Sc. Agric. Econ. & AgBMgt.**

**COURSE CODE: AEM 305**

**TITLE OF PAPER: Research Methods**

**TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS**

**INSTRUCTION: ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 AND ANY OTHER TWO**

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1. Effective research in Agricultural Economics depends on methods of inquiry which are systematic, replicable, objective, transparent and verifiable. Do you agree with this statement? (20 Marks)
  2. Write short notes on the following philosophies underlying social science research:
    - i. Rationalism (6 marks)
    - ii. Emperism (6 marks)
  3. Experimentalism (8 marks)
  4. What do you mean by 'Sample Design'? What points should be taken into consideration by a researcher in developing a sample design for this research project (20)
  4. Explain, in details, what you understand by the following:
    - (i) Simple random sampling (6 marks)
    - (ii) Systematic sampling (7 marks)
    - (iii) Stratified sampling (7 marks)
  5. (a) What would you consider as the relevance of hypotheses in Agricultural Economics research? (5 Marks)  
(b) How would you characterize a sound hypothesis? (5 marks)  
(c) What are the reasons that could make a researcher to make incorrect conclusions about the validity of a hypothesis (10 marks)
  6. In sampling analysis, researchers could make incorrect inferences as a result of either systematic bias or sampling error. Explain some of the factors which could lead to systematic biases. (20 marks)