UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI

Department:	Agricultural Economics & Management (AEM).
Program:	Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness Management
Level:	Three (3)
Course Name:	Research Methods
Course Code:	AEM 305
Number of Questions:	Four (4)
Marks per question:	25 marks
Time allowed:	Two (2) hours
Instruction:	Answer all questions. Marks allocated to each indicate extent of detail expected. Total grade attainable is 100.

Question 1

1. Briefly discuss eight steps of a research process. **[16 marks]**

2. Define the difference between a research paradigm and ontology? **[4 marks]**

3. Distinguish between qualitative and quantitative research? **[5 marks]**

Total = 25 marks

Question 2

1. Unclearly defined objectives are detrimental to the quality of a research output. Discuss how one can achieve a clearly defined objectives. **[9 marks]**

2. What is the role of a hypothesis in academic research? **[6marks]**

3. Define a hypothesis and discuss the characteristics of a sound research hypothesis. **[10 marks]**

Total = 25 marks

Question 3

1. What is the function of a research design? **[5 marks]**

2. Define the difference between the following concepts applicable in research.
   a. Validity and Reliability **[5 marks]**
   b. Bias and Unbiased **[5 marks]**
   c. A population and a sample **[5 marks]**
   d. Null hypothesis and alternative hypothesis **[5 marks]**

[Total = 25 marks]

Question 4

1. Define the four categories of measurement scale that express the unit of a variable of a research. **[8 marks]**

2. A study had expressed the relationship between the variables under study as follows function. $Y = f(x, g, p, u, z)$ State which of the variables in the function is/are the dependent and independent variable? **[5 marks]**

3. Two studies are undertaken by two students from the Agricultural economics and management department in level 4. The following have been extracted from their proposals.

   Student 1

   - H_0: an average UNESWA student does not save a portion of the living allowance per year.
   - H_1: an average UNESWA student saves a portion of the living allowance per year.

   Student 2

   - Do UNESWA students have knowledge on saving money?
   - Do UNESWA students apply this knowledge in managing their living allowance?

   Using the information above.

   A. Describe the type of research **each** student is conducting and give reasons for the classification? **[3 marks]**
   B. What is the target population for these two studies? **[3 marks]**
   C. What is the study area of these two studies? **[3 marks]**
   D. What could be the general objective of these two studies? **[3 marks]**

   [Total = 25 marks]