

# UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

## FACULTY OF COMMERCE

### DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

#### FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER

**MAY, 2008**

*(FULL TIME / IDE STUDENTS).*

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**TITLE PAPER : RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

**COURSE TITLE : COM 400**

**TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS**

- INSTRUCTIONS :**
- (1) TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS IN THIS PAPER IS FIVE (5)**
  - (2) THE PAPER CONSISTS OF SECTION A AND SECTION B.**
  - (3) ANSWER QUESTIONS IN SECTION A WHICH IS COMPULSORY AND ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS IN SECTION B.**
  - (4) THE MARKS AWARDED FOR A QUESTION /PART OF A QUESTION ARE INDICATED AT THE END OF EACH QUESTION / PART OF QUESTION.**
  - (5) WHERE APPLICABLE, ALL WORKINGS / CALCULATIONS MUST BE CLEARLY SHOWN.**

**NOTE: MAXIMUM MARKS WILL BE AWARDED FOR GOOD QUALITY LAYOUT, ACCURACY, AND PRESENTATION OF WORK.**

**THIS PAPER MUST NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

## **SECTION A (COMPULSORY)**

**Q1 (a).** Discuss the controversy of *theory-before-research* versus *research-before-theory* strategies by clearly indicating what the strategies involve. (16marks).

**(b).** Ernest Nagel maintains that *the contrast between the two strategies is more apparent than real*. To what extent is this statement true? Support your view from inference based on the controversy. (9marks).

**Q2 (a).** *It is never safe to take published statistics at their face value without knowing their meaning and limitations*. Elucidate this statement by **enumerating** and **explaining** **three major factors** which you would consider before using any published data. (15marks).

**(b).** What are the functions of hypotheses in research? (10marks).

## **SECTION B (ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS).**

**Q3 (a).** What are the reasons usually adduced for sampling? (15marks).

**(b).** Discuss the characteristics of mail questionnaires. (10marks).

**Q4 (a).** Discuss some of the difficulties that can occur in the test-retest reliability method and cause a downward bias in stability. (15marks).

**(b).** How can reliability be improved in research? (10marks).

**Q5.** "*Empirical research in Swaziland creates so many problems for researchers*". From your knowledge in research, state the problems that you think are usually faced by such researchers. (25marks).