

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
INSTITUTE OF POST-GRADUATE STUDIES  
DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND TEACHING  
FINAL EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER 2010**

**TITLE OF PAPER: CURRICULUM THEORY AND DEVELOPMENT  
COURSE CODE: EDC 606  
STUDENTS: MASTER OF EDUCATION (M.Ed.)  
TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS: 1. This examination paper has six (6) questions. Answer any four (4) questions.  
2. Each question has a total of 25 marks.**

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

**Question 1**

The aims and objectives stated for a country's education system form the basis on which the curriculum is developed.

- (a) With reference to the above premise, describe how the curriculum development process has occurred during the years of Swaziland's independence up to its present form. (18)
- (b) Critique the curriculum development process described above. (7)

**Question 2**

The view that the education system of Swaziland should be overhauled is stated frequently in current times. Recapitulate the statements and reasoning that reflect such views, as well as their sources.

Assess the validity of these views in light of the various activities that the Ministry of Education is engaged in recent times.

**Question 3**

- (a) There are two related aspects entailed in the concept of curriculum evaluation. Clarify the nature and purpose of each facet, as well as their interrelation. (10)
- (b) Suppose you have been appointed into a newly established curriculum evaluation team for Swaziland's Secondary Education, as a representative of your Teacher Association. Describe the detail of the work you expect your team will be doing. Discuss possible pitfalls your team might encounter and reasonable counteraction. (15)

**Question 4**

Some issues of Education have recurred as controversial policy and practice in the African continent for several decades. Discuss the pros and cons of any two of the issues below:

- a) Teachers should eliminate homework in the lower grades of school
- b) Government should provide Free Primary Education (FPE) to all school-age children
- c) Tests and examinations fail to reveal the essential abilities that have developed among learners

**Question 5**

Bishop (1985) stated that language plays a vital role in the curriculum for expressing society's aspirations. Discuss this notion, with special reference to recent ideas that SiSwati should be promoted to first language status in Swaziland.

**Question 6**

The main conclusion of the recent World Bank (WB) study on Swaziland states:

“The current ETSDS (Education, Training and Skills Development Sector) is not sufficient to support national development aspirations and goals, accelerated and shared growth, and global competitiveness” (WB, 2009).

(a) Write a summary of the key issues identified by the WB as critical challenges to Swaziland's Education sector. (15)

(b) Choose any ONE of the above issues affecting a particular sub-sector. Elaborate on causal factors, as well as the WB recommendations for ameliorating the weaknesses identified. State your view, with justification, on the possible effectiveness or otherwise of each recommendation you discuss. (10)