

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND



INSTITUTE OF POST GRADUATE STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS AND MANAGEMENT
MAY/JUNE, 2011

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER
MASTER OF EDUCATION (M.Ed)

COURSE CODE : EDF 651
TITLE OF PAPER : QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS
TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS
INSTRUCTIONS : ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

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

Question 1

- a. Enumerate and explain fully any three characteristics of qualitative research. (18 marks)
- b. What type of studies tend to require this type of research method? (7 marks)

Question 2

Participant observation is one way of gathering data in qualitative research.

- a. Illustrating your answer, explain the concept of participant observation. (5 marks)
- b. What are some of the ways in which data collection using participant observation can be rendered less valid? (20 marks)

Question 3

Explain the term “triangulation” and discuss any three types of triangulation that researchers have used to improve the dependability of their data. (25 marks)

Question 4

Write notes on each of the following showing where they might occur in qualitative research.

- a. Interviews
- b. Case study
- c. Confirmation of findings
- d. Audit trail
- e. Snowball sampling

(5marks each)