

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF EDUCATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY EDUCATION**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, DECEMBER 2012**

- COURSE CODE** : **PEC 371**
- TITLE OF PAPER** : **CURRICULUM STUDIES: SOCIAL STUDIES**
- TIME ALLOWED** : **TWO (2) HOURS**
- INSTRUCTIONS**
1. **ANSWER TWO (2) QUESTIONS.**
  2. **EACH QUESTION CARRIES FIFTY (50) MARKS.**
  3. **THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS EXAMINATION SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE CORRECT USAGE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, THE QUALITY OF EXPRESSION AS WELL AS THE PRESENTATION OF THE ANSWER.**
  4. **INDICATE ON YOUR ANSWER BOOKLET WHETHER YOU ARE FULL TIME (F/T) OR NOT (IDE). APPEND THE INITIALS F.T OR I.D.E. TO YOUR I.D. NUMBER.**

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

### **QUESTION 1**

- (a) Identify three grouping patterns that are widely used in schools. (10 marks)
- (b) Discuss one advantage of grouping students using each of the criterion listed below:
- Gender
  - Cognitive age
  - Pupils' interests
  - Pupils' special needs (20 marks)
- (c) Discuss four dangers of group work. (20 marks)

### **QUESTION 2**

- (a) Briefly explain what is meant by the term “the flower-would-bloom”. (4 marks)
- (b) What criticisms have been levelled against “the flower-would-bloom” concept? (4 marks)
- (c) What, according to Piaget, are the major characteristics of pupils who are in the pre-operational stage of development? (4 marks)
- (d) Discuss three strategies that could be used to determine whether a child is still in the pre-operational stage of development or not. Draw an appropriate diagram to illustrate your answer. (36 marks)

### **QUESTION 3**

- (a) Explain as fully as possible why conceptual learning is strongly emphasized in the social studies programme. (10 marks)
- (b) According to some scholars, concept learning, especially among pupils, is susceptible to verbalism. Discuss four factors that consistently cause this problem (30 marks)
- (c) Discuss two strategies that could be used to minimize verbalism. (10 marks)

#### **QUESTION 4**

- (a) With specific reference to Swaziland the textbook approach is indispensable. Do you agree or disagree with this observation. Give four arguments to justify your answer.  
(20 marks)
- (b) Discuss two criticisms that have been levelled against the textbook approach.  
(10 marks)
- (c) Describe two strategies that could be used to develop meaningful vocabulary to words found in Social Studies textbooks.  
(10 marks)
- (d) Discuss one life-long skill that can be acquired by pupils through the textbook approach.  
(10 marks)