

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND



FACULTY OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

EXAMINATION PAPER

MAY 2014

Title of Paper: Educational Research Methods

Course Code: EDF 322

Duration of Paper: Three (3) hours

Instructions: Answer any four (4) questions

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[Turn over

Question 1

Discuss **five (5)** characteristics of the scientific approach to enquiry. **(25 marks)**

Question 2

1. Give a detailed description of the database called ERIC. **(10 marks)**
2. The literature review stage of educational research has several goals. **Identify and evaluate three (3) goals** of the literature review. **(15 marks)**

Question 3

1. With examples write short notes on the following measurement concepts:
 - I. Nominal scale **(4 marks)**
 - II. Ordinal scale **(4 marks)**
 - III. Interval Scale **(4 marks)**
 - IV. Ratio Scale **(4 marks)**
2. What is the difference between descriptive and inferential statistics? **(8 marks)**

Question 4

1. Choose **three (3)** non-probability sampling techniques; **(3 marks)**
2. define **one** of them; and **(10 marks)**
3. explain a situation when the **one you have defined** would be the best technique to use. **(12 marks)**

Question 5

1. What is a **Focus Group Discussion (FGD)**? **(10 marks)**
2. When should focus groups be appropriately used? **(15 marks)**

Question 6

1. State **three (3)** types of information that can be provided by a **scattergram** of the scores of two measured variables for a research sample. **(15 marks)**
2. Name and explain **two (2)** threats to internal validity that should be considered in designing an experiment. **(10 marks).**