

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FACULTY OF EDUCATION**



**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS AND  
MANAGEMENT**

**MASTER OF EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS AND  
MANAGEMENT: FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER MAY 2017**

**TITLE OF PAPER: QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS**

**COURSE CODE: EFM 602**

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

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- (a) YOU SHOULD WRITE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE ANSWER BOOKLET PROVIDED.
- (b) THERE ARE SIX QUESTIONS IN THIS PAPER. ANSWER ANY **FOUR (4)** QUESTIONS.

**TOTAL MARK ALLOCATION: 100 MARKS**

**THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE PAGES INCLUDING THE COVER PAGE**

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**DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO BY THE  
INVIGILATOR**

### Question 1

In relation to your own possible topic, explain why you think a qualitative approach is appropriate. [25 marks]

### Question 2

(a) Differentiate between research design and research methods using practical examples?[5 marks]

(b) Examine the skills needed by flexible (or qualitative) design investigators. [20 marks]

### Question 3

(a) Briefly discuss the similarities and differences between case studies and ethnographic studies. [10 marks]

(b) Explain how you would use the framework in fig1.1 below to design a case study for your research topic? In your discussion, explain how each of the features within the framework (research questions, methods, conceptual framework, purposes and sampling) would influence the research process. [15 marks]

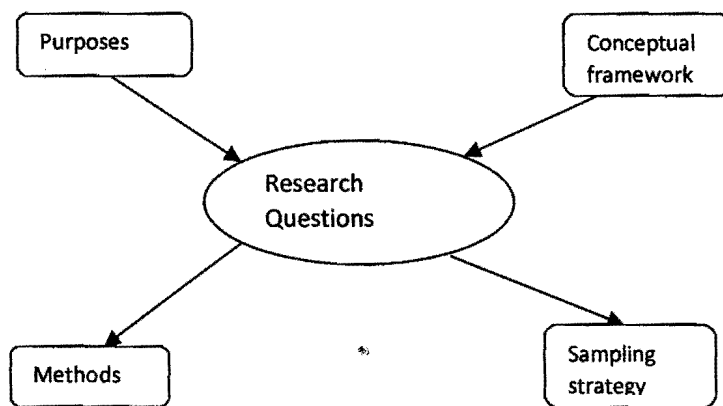


Fig. 1.1 Framework for research design

### Question 4

(a) Briefly discuss the approach to validity in qualitative research. In your discussion, you should include the terms used by qualitative researchers to describe validity in educational research. [10 marks]

(b) Analyse the five general standards for approaching validation in qualitative research according to Eisenhart and Howe (1992). [15 marks]

**Question 5**

Outline the strengths and weaknesses of focus group interviews as a method of research. In your discussion, explore all facets such as data collection, credibility, forms of analysis, ethics issues and how interpretation is arrived at and data is presented in this method. [25 marks]

**Question 6**

- (a) Explain what is meant by thick description in qualitative research? In your discussion, explain how thick descriptions can be used as a form of data collection and analysis? [10 marks]
- (b) Discuss using practical examples how you would use thematic coding as a generic approach to data analysis in qualitative research. [15 marks]