



UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
Faculty of Health Sciences
DEGREE IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER 2008-9

TITLE OF PAPER : **RESEARCH METHODS**

COURSE CODE : **HSC 306**

DURATION : **2 HOURS**

MARKS : **100**

INSTRUCTIONS :

- READ THE QUESTIONS & INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY**
- ANSWER ANY FOUR QUESTIONS**
- EACH QUESTION CARRIES 25 MARKS.**
- WRITE NEATLY & CLEARLY**
- NO PAPER SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO NOR OUT OF THE EXAMINATION ROOM.**
- BEGIN EACH QUESTION ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER.**

DO NOT OPEN THIS QUESTION PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION IS GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

QUESTION 1

Describe in detail ANY FIVE guiding principles for health research (25 marks)

QUESTION 2

- a. Demonstrate the application of the SEVEN key steps chronologically, in preparing a research proposal (21 marks)
- b. Briefly describe the two major purposes of research in health (4 marks)

QUESTION 3

- A. Describe the FIVE ways of stating objectives (15 marks)
- B. Discuss the following groupings of studies and describe two examples of the specific studies falling under each (10 marks)
 - a. Prospective studies
 - b. Retrospective studies

QUESTION 4

- a. Describe in detail FIVE techniques of data collection (15 marks)
- b. Briefly describe FIVE strategies that can be used to deal with threats to validity (10 marks)

QUESTION 5

- a. Describe FIVE key information issues to be included in defining the statement of the problem (15 marks)
- b. Briefly discuss the following data quality requirements (10 marks)
 - i. Timeliness
 - ii. Precision
 - iii. Integrity
 - iv. Reliable
 - v. Validity