



**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**Faculty of Health Sciences**  
**DEGREE IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER 2009-10**

**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**

In research, problem identification and analysis are important to enable those concerned to pool their knowledge of the problem, clarify the problem & the possible factors that may be contributing to it and facilitate decisions concerning the focus & scope of research. In detail discuss and give examples of FIVE types of information to be included in the statement of the problem. [25 Marks]

### **QUESTION 2**

Research objectives play a major role in the organization and determination of the focus and depth of the study. Discuss FIVE ways of stating research objectives and give examples for each. [25 Marks]

### **QUESTION 3**

Discuss in detail and give examples of the following probability sampling methods: [25 Marks]

- Simple random sampling
- Systematic random sampling
- Stratified sampling
- Cluster sampling
- Multistage sampling

### **QUESTION 4**

- a. Describe the two major purposes of research in health (10 marks)
- b. Discuss the following as areas of concern in public health research (15 marks)
  - (i) Policy
  - (ii) Administration and management
  - (iii) Direct services.

### **QUESTION 5**

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the following data collection techniques. [25 Marks]

1. Using available information – Desk review
2. Observing
3. Interviewing – face to face
4. Self administered written questionnaires
5. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)