

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

RESIT EXAMINATION, JULY 2018

TITLE OF PAPER : Research Methods in Religious Studies
COURSE CODE : TRS 334/300
DURATION : 2 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Answer three (3) questions in all.**
- 2. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.**
- 3. Each Question carries 20 marks.**

DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR GRANTS YOU PERMISSION TO DO SO.

Question 1

Write a brief essay on what you understand by “research” [20]

Question 2

What characteristics should a good research question exhibit? [20]

Question 3

Give a brief description of each of the following research approaches:

- a) Mixed-Methods or Pragmatic Approach (10)
- b) Advocacy/Participatory Approach (10)

[20]

Question 4

Read the two paragraphs given below and answer the questions that follow.

Much of the indigenous African Folklore, especially expressive culture, exists largely in an oral form in many African countries. Being part of Africa, Swaziland is no exception to this situation. Most of the said folklore exists in oral forms and remains exclusively known in its undiluted forms to a few old Swazis sparsely found in different rural regions of Swaziland and South Africa. The word folklore as used in this context covers such cultural elements as traditional folk narratives, riddles, proverbs and idioms, folk poetry, folk games, folk music, religious folk beliefs, folk medicine, folk dress, folk tools, folk food and beverages as well as folk utensils of the Swazis. Despite sporadic publications on this important Swazi cultural heritage by the early missionaries and colonial civil servants and by the early Swazi Christians writers as well as by modern Swazi, what is currently documented on this aspect of the Swazi heritage still remains a mere drop in the ocean compared to what remains orally known but undocumented.

As this folklore remains largely an oral tradition, each time an old Swazi passes on somewhere in the village, a sizable portion of this cultural heritage goes with him/her to the grave. It is crucially important to do something about it now while there is still something to be salvaged. This study is intended to have this important heritage well documented and preserved in selected resource centres where it can be accessible to researchers, the public in general and the world at large for various purposes.

- (a) Which element of a research proposal would you give as a suitable title for the first paragraph above? Give reasons for your answer (10)
- (b) Give one component of a research proposal that you would give as a suitable title for the second paragraph above? Support your answer with reasons (10)

[20]

Question 5

You are given an assignment on “Exploring factors responsible for the high HIV infection rate at tertiary institutions in BOLESWA countries”. Indicate what you would use for each of the following and provide reasons for your choice:

- a) Data collection technique(s) (10)
- b) Sampling strategies (10)

[20]

Question 6

What important ethical considerations does one have to make when dealing with human participants in research? [20]