UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PLANNING

FINAL EXAMINATION, DECEMBER 2007
B.A., BASS, B.Ed, B.Sc

TITLE OF PAPER	:	**RESEARCH METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY**
COURSE NUMBER	:	**GEP 323**
TIME ALLOWED	:	**THREE (3) HOURS**
INSTRUCTIONS	:	**SECTION A IS COMPULSORY ANSWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B ILLUSTRATE YOUR ANSWERS WITH APPROPRIATE DIAGRAMS**
MARK ALLOCATION	:	**QUESTION 1 CARRIES 40 MARKS. THE OTHER QUESTIONS CARRY 30 MARKS**

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

GEP 323: RESEARCH METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY

SECTION A: COMPULSORY QUESTION

QUESTION 1

a) Define the term pilot survey.   (5 marks)
b) Outline the main purposes of a pilot survey.   (10 marks)
c) Give the steps you would take when carrying out a pilot survey on domestic water demand in a suburb of Manzini.   (25 marks)
                                                                   (40 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 2

a) Outline the main sources of secondary data.   (10 marks)
b) Identify the main limitations of secondary data sources.   (10 marks)
c) Justify the need for carrying out a literature review.   (10 marks)
                                                                   (30 marks)

QUESTION 3

a) Discuss the role of the null hypothesis and the research hypothesis in the logic of hypothesis testing.   (10 marks)

b) Using examples, explain how the concept of validity arises in social research.
                                                                   (10 marks)
c) Outline the steps that you would follow when carrying out stratified sampling.
                                                                   (10 marks)
                                                                   (30 marks)

QUESTION 4

a) Discuss the major ethical issues that arise in scientific research.
                                                                   (15 marks)
b) Using examples explain how researchers are expected to address these ethical issues   (15 marks)

                                                                   (30 marks)
QUESTION 5
a) Define the term validity as used in research measurement   (5 marks)
b) Outline four types of validity   (20 marks)
c) Give the main difference between validity and reliability   (5 marks)
                                                                   (30 marks)