UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PLANNING

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER DECEMBER 2008

B.A., BASS, B.Ed, B.Sc

TITLE OF PAPER : **RESEARCH METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY**

COURSE NUMBER : **GEP 323**

TIME ALLOWED : **THREE HOURS**

INSTRUCTIONS : **SECTION A IS COMPULSORY**
ASWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS, ONE FROM SECTION B AND ONE FROM SECTION C.
ILLUSTRATE YOUR ANSWERS WITH APPROPRIATE DIAGRAMS.

MARK ALLOCATION : **QUESTION ONE (1) CARRIES 40 MARKS.**
THE REST OF THE QUESTIONS CARRY 30 MARKS.

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

GEP 323 RESEARCH METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY
MAIN PAPER

SECTION A: COMPULSORY QUESTION (40 MARKS)

QUESTION 1

a) List five (5) functions of a literature review (5 marks)

b) Outline five (5) categories of research process as stated by Holden (1976) (15 marks)

c) Describe the conditions necessary to develop a research design using the qualitative approach. (10 marks)

d) Discuss the basic principles of research ethics. (10 marks)
[40 marks]

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY ONE QUESTION FROM THIS SECTION.

QUESTION 2

a) Outline the main steps taken in quantitative research. (20 marks)

b) Justify whether the steps suggest a deductive or inductive approach in the relationship between theory and research. (10 marks)
[30 marks]

QUESTION 3

a) Outline the steps taken when coding quantitative data. (10 marks)

b) (i) Describe four (4) common types of errors that often arise when entering quantitative data. (5 marks)

(ii) State how these errors can be identified during the data-cleaning phase of the study. (5 marks)

c) Explain the role of the null hypothesis and the research hypothesis in the logic of hypothesis testing. (10 marks)

[30 marks]

SECTION C: ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM THIS SECTION

QUESTION 4

Compare and contrast the various techniques of data collection appropriate for qualitative research. **(30 marks)**

QUESTION 5

a) Using examples explain the fundamental differences between quasi-experimental and experimental research designs. (10 marks)

b) Discuss the different forms of validity. (20 marks)

[30 marks]