

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE &
PLANNING**

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER JULY 2010

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
ANSWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS
FROM SECTION B.
ILLUSTRATE YOUR ANSWERS WITH
APPROPRIATE DIAGRAMS.**

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

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GIVEN BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

GEP 323 RESEARCH METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY

SECTION A: COMPULSORY QUESTION (40 MARKS)

QUESTION 1

- a) A researcher uses data for the year 2000 to study average income of urban residents in a hypothetical country. Town A has a population of over 560,000 and the population of town X was 5 million. If she were to take a sample of 2,000 in each town, what would be the degree of desired precision in the study? (10 marks)
- b) Explain why a researcher would choose to combine probability and non-probability sampling within the same sampling design. (10 marks)
- c) Explain when stratified random sampling is more efficient than simple random sampling. (10 marks)
- [40 marks]**

SECTION B: ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS.

QUESTION 2

- a) Explain the strengths and weaknesses of surveys compared to experiments. (15 marks)
- b) Discuss the principal stages of field research. (15 marks)
- [30 marks]**

QUESTION 3

- a) Discuss why measurement is important for the quantitative researcher. (20 marks)
- b) 'Whereas validity presupposes reliability, reliability does not presuppose validity. Discuss. (10 marks)
- [30 marks]**

QUESTION 4

- a) Discuss why the posttest-only control group design is generally preferred over the pretest-posttest control group design. (15 marks)
 - b) If experiments are the best way of determine causality, why would we want to do any other kind of research? (15 marks)
- [30 marks]**

QUESTION 5

Discuss on the main research methods associated with qualitative research.

[30 marks]