

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

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

**MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER DECEMBER 2010**

**B.A., BASS, BED &, B.Sc**

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

**COURSE TITLE : GEP 323**

**TIME ALLOWED : THREE HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS : SECTION A IS COMPULSORY.  
ANSWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM  
SECTION B.  
WHERE APPROPRIATE ILLUSTRATE YOUR  
ANSWER WITH 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

#### QUESTION 1

- (a) Babbie (2008:90) reports that ...“a researcher who is personally in favour of small families (as a response to the problem of overpopulation) wants to conduct a survey to determine why some people want many children and others don’t.”
- (i) Explain the personal involvement problems the researcher would face in conducting the study. (10 marks)
  - (ii) What ethical issues should the researcher take into account in designing the study? (10 marks)
- (b) Discuss the general ethical responsibilities of a researcher to society. (10 marks).
- (c) Using examples explain how researchers are expected to address these ethical issues. (10 marks)

**[40 MARKS]**

### SECTION B: ANSWER TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION

#### QUESTION 2

- (a) Discuss clearly the logic of understanding variables in a study. (10 marks)
- (b) Using examples, explain the types of variables a researcher has to consider in undertaking a research study. (20 marks)

**[30 MARKS]**

#### QUESTION 3

“When social researchers construct and evaluate measurements, they pay special attention to two technical considerations: reliability and validity.” Discuss the validity of this statement. **[30 MARKS]**

**QUESTION 4**

- (a) Explain the logic of pre-experimental designs. (5 marks)
- (b) Using examples, discuss the true experimental designs. (20 marks)
- (c) Explain why the Solomon Four-Group design is considered the most powerful experimental approach. (5 marks)

**[30 MARKS]**

**QUESTION 5**

- (a) Explain how multi-stage cluster sampling is conducted. (10marks)
- (b) Using examples, describe the steps involved in selecting a multi-stage cluster sample. (20 marks).

**[30 MARKS]**