

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

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

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER DECEMBER 2011

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

TITLE OF PAPER : RESEARCH METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY

COURSE TITLE : GEP 323

TIME ALLOWED : THREE HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS :1. ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS.
2. QUESTION 1 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

SECTION A: COMPULSORY QUESTION

QUESTION 1

- i) Discuss two criteria used to judge the adequacy of a research design. (4 marks)
 - ii) Using examples, discuss two types of true experimental designs. (18 marks)
 - iii) For each selected research design explain how threats to validity are addressed. (8 marks)
 - iv) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each selected research design. (10 marks)
- [40 MARKS]**

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

QUESTION 2

- (a) In survey research, the researcher is often faced with problems of instrumentation. By referring to specific examples, discuss the problems relating to 'memory recall' and 'response biases'. (10 marks)
 - (b) Discuss the advantages of surveys compared to experiments. (20 marks)
- [30 MARKS]**

QUESTION 3

- (a) Discuss three steps in the measurement process. (10 marks)
- (b) 'Research focuses on explanatory variables while attempting to eliminate the influence of extraneous variables.' Discuss the validity of this statement. (20 marks)

[30 MARKS]

QUESTION 4

- (a) Explain the purposes of evaluation research. (10 marks)
- (b) Using examples, discuss the various types of evaluation research. (20 marks)

[30 MARKS]

QUESTION 5

- (a) Using examples, clearly explain the purpose of the literature review in scientific research. (10 marks)
- (b) With reference to your own research study, discuss the functions of the literature review. (10 marks)
- (c) Discuss the pitfalls of using electronic sources for your literature review. (10 marks)

[30 MARKS]