

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PLANNING

FINAL EXAMINATION, MAY 2013

MSc

TITLE OF PAPER : GEP RESEARCH TECHNIQUES

COURSE NUMBER : ERM 625

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS : ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM EACH
SECTION . 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**

ERM 625: GEP RESEARCH METHODS

SECTION A: COMPULSORY QUESTION

QUESTION 1

- a) Explain the following terms:
- i) Research method (5 marks)
 - ii) Research design (5 marks)
- b) Describe how you would conduct stratified and cluster sampling. (10 marks)
- c) Using examples, discuss the links between a research, thesis, research question and hypothesis. (10 marks)
- d) You have been asked to compare the productivity of land resources in two communities. Explain how you would do this, indicating the type of data to be collected and appropriate statistics to be used. (10 marks)
- (40 Marks)**

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY ONE QUESTION

QUESTION 2

- a) Differentiate between qualitative and quantitative research methods. (20 marks)
- b) Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of both qualitative and quantitative research methods. (10 marks)
- (30 marks)**

QUESTION 3

Identify and discuss different ways of determining the validity of measurement in both quantitative and qualitative research. (30 Marks)

SECTION C: ANSWER ANY ONE QUESTION

QUESTION 4

Discuss the steps followed when choosing a research topic and narrowing its focus. **(30 Marks)**

QUESTION 5

Using examples, explain how you would write the following parts of your literature review:

a) Introduction (10 marks)

b) Body of literature review (10 marks)

c) Conclusion (10 marks)

(30 Marks)

END OF EXAM PAPER