

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND PLANNING
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER DECEMBER 2012

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

- TITLE OF PAPER** : **RESEARCH METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY**
- COURSE TITLE** : **GEP 323**
- TIME ALLOWED** : **THREE HOURS**
- INSTRUCTIONS** : **1. ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS.**
2. QUESTION 1 IS COMPULSORY.
ANSWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION
B.
3. WHERE APPROPRIATE, ILLUSTRATE YOUR
ANSWER WITH DIAGRAMS.
- MARK ALLOCATION** : **QUESTION ONE (1) CARRIES 40 MARKS THE REST**
OF THE QUESTIONS CARRY 30 MARKS.

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THE INVIGILATOR.

GEP 323 RESEARCH METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY

SECTION A: COMPULSORY QUESTION

QUESTION 1

- (a) Explain the purposes of hypotheses in research studies. (8 marks)
- (b) Describe the characteristics of a 'good' hypothesis. (10 marks)
- (c) Explain the three conditions that must hold for a variable to be classified as an antecedent variable. (10 marks)
- (d) 'Social scientists generally require at least three kinds of evidence to establish causality.' Discuss the validity of this statement. (12 marks)

[40 MARKS]

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

QUESTION 2

"One problem with many studies of domestic violence, including child abuse, is that they have relied upon self-reports. Because domestic abuse is socially stigmatized and can result in criminal charges, individuals may be tempted to under report abusive conduct." (Singleton and Straits, 2010:148)

Based on the above statement answer the following questions:

- (a) What kind of measurement error does the situation described in (a) above introduce? (5 marks)
- (b) What effect would the situation described in (a) above have on reliability and/or validity of such self-report measures? (15 marks)
- (c) Using examples identify and discuss three sources of external invalidity in a research study. (10 marks)

[30 MARKS]

QUESTION 3

Using examples, discuss the three types of data collection techniques identified: observation; interviews/ questionnaires and focus group discussion. **[30 MARKS]**

QUESTION 4

‘When carrying out a research project, it is essential to recognize that observations of any kind can never be expressed without some error. Researchers have thus identified eight possible sources of error in research.’ Identify and describe these errors.

[30 MARKS]

QUESTION 5

- (a) Describe the general features of survey research. (5 marks)
- (b) Discuss the uses and limitations of survey research. (7 marks)
- (c) Using examples discuss on two common types of survey designs. (18 marks)

[30 MARKS]