

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND
PLANNING

FINAL EXAMINATION, MAY 2015

MSc

TITLE OF PAPER : GEP RESEARCH TECHNIQUES

COURSE NUMBER : ERM 625

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS : ANSWER TWO (2) QUESTIONS
ILLUSTRATE YOUR ANSWERS WITH
APPROPRIATE DIAGRAMS**

MARK ALLOCATION : EACH QUESTION CARRIES FIFTY (50) MARKS

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
THE INVIGILATOR**

ANSWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1

- a) Outline the major ethical challenges that arise in scientific research. (15 marks)
 - b) With the aid of examples explain how researchers are expected to address these ethical issues in (a) above. (15 marks)
 - c) With the aid of examples discuss the links between a research, thesis, research question and hypothesis. (20 marks)
- [50 Marks]**

QUESTION 2

- a) 'The functionalist research process involves research method, research design, hypothesis formulation and research execution'. Using examples explain what is involved in these processes. (40 marks)
 - b) Discuss the common mistakes likely to be made in conducting research. (10 marks)
- [50 Marks]**

QUESTION 3

- a) Critically discuss the developments in social science research paradigms indicating their strengths and weaknesses. (20 marks)
- b) With the aid of examples explain what happens at the empirical and theoretical research planes. (10 marks)
- c) With the help of examples and diagrams, explain how the following variables are interlinked:
 - i) Independent variables
 - ii) Dependent variables
 - iii) Moderating variables
 - iv) Mediating or control variables

(20 marks)
[50 Marks]

QUESTION 4

With the aid of an illustration, explain how you will do the following:

- a) Review related literature for your thesis (10 marks)
 - b) Write the literature review (10 marks)
 - c) State the problem for research study (10 marks)
 - d) Formulate the research questions and objectives of the study (15 marks)
 - e) Formulate the topic and title for your study (5 marks)
- [50 Marks]**