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**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

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

**FINAL EXAMINATION, MAY 2016**

**MSc**

**TITLE OF PAPER : GEP RESEARCH TECHNIQUES**

**COURSE NUMBER : GEP 608/GEP625**

**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**

**GEP 608/GEP 625: GEP RESEARCH TECHNIQUES - MAY, 2016****ANSWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS****QUESTION 1**

- a) Using examples, discuss the following research designs:
- i) Experimental studies (5 marks)
  - ii) Field surveys (5 marks)
  - iii) Secondary data analysis (5 marks)
  - iv) Case research (5 marks)
  - v) Focus group research (5 marks)
  - vi) Action research (5 marks)
  - vii) Ethnography (5 marks)
- b) With the aid of a diagram, summarize the functionalist research process. (15 marks)
- (50 Marks)**

**QUESTION 2**

- a) Explain why we need to do a literature review (15 marks)
- b) Using an example, explain how you will write the following parts of the literature review for your study:
- i) Introduction (5 marks)
  - ii) Body of literature review (5 marks)
  - iii) Conclusion (5 marks)
- c) Using the example used in (b) above write the problem statement for the study. (20 marks)
- (50 Marks)**

**QUESTION 3**

Using examples explain the following:

- a) How you would formulate and statistically test your research hypothesis. (20 marks)
  - b) How you would assess your research in the process of question refinement to ensure you are coming out with an interesting and justifiable research. (10 marks)
  - c) The steps you would follow in selecting a research topic and narrowing it down. (10 marks)
  - d) The qualities of a good research question. (10 marks)
- (50 Marks)**

**QUESTION 4**

a) Discuss the following key research design attributes:

- i) Internal validity (5 marks)
- ii) External validity (5 marks)
- iii) Construct validity (5 marks)
- iv) Statistical conclusion validity (5 marks)

b) Explain how the following methods and controls can assure validity of research designs:

- i. Manipulation (6 marks)
- ii. Elimination (6 marks)
- iii. Inclusion (6 marks)
- iv. Statistical control (6 marks)
- v. Randomization (6 marks)

**(50 Marks)**