

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND
PLANNING

FINAL EXAMINATION, DECEMBER 2016

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

TITLE OF PAPER: RESEARCH METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY

COURSE CODE: GEP 323

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS**
- 2. QUESTION 1 IS COMPULSORY**
- 3. ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B**
- 4. WHERE APPROPRIATE, ILLUSTRATE YOUR ANSWERS WITH DIAGRAMS AND EXAMPLES**

MARKS ALLOCATION: QUESTION ONE (1) CARRIES 40 MARKS THE REST OF THE QUESTIONS CARRY 30 MARKS

THIS QUESTION PAPER SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

GEP 323 RESEARCH METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY- DECEMBER 2016

SECTION A: COMPULSORY QUESTION

QUESTION 1

- a) Distinguish between a research proposal and research report. (8 marks)
- b) By referring to your own research proposal, state the title of your study and answer the following questions:
- i) State the problem of your study. (8 marks)
 - ii) State the research objectives. (6 marks)
 - iii) Explain the logic of your study's design. (10 marks)
 - iv) Describe the setting of your study. (2 marks)
 - v) Explain the measurement procedures to be undertaken. (6 marks)
- (40 Marks)**

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

QUESTION 2

- a) Distinguish between experimental and non-experimental research designs. (4 marks)
- b) Identify and explain four (4) types of experimental designs. (16 marks)
- c) Discuss the factors that can threaten the internal validity of an experimental design. (10 marks)
- (30 Marks)**

QUESTION 3

'Field work as a geographic tool involves the process of observing and collecting data about people, cultures and natural environments. Geographical research is increasingly based on both primary and secondary data. Thus there is a considerable overlap between field techniques, remote sensing, GIS and laboratory techniques.'

Based on your field work experience, discuss the validity of this statement. (30 Marks)

QUESTION 4

”The design of a questionnaire is an extremely important part of the research process since this is the instrument with which the data are to be generated.”(Maree and Pietersen, 2016:177).

- a) Identify and explain four (4) elements that go into questionnaire design. (16 marks)
 - b) Distinguish between structured and unstructured questions. (4 marks)
 - c) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each question type. (10 marks)
- (30 Marks)**

QUESTION 5

- a) Explain what is meant by data processing in research. (4 marks)
 - b) Describe the steps the researcher needs to undertake in editing and coding data. (20 marks)
 - c) Using examples, explain the role of statistics in research. (6 marks)
- (30 Marks)**