

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND
PLANNING

FINAL EXAMINATION, MAY 2018

MSc

TITLE OF PAPER : GEP RESEARCH TECHNIQUES

COURSE CODE : GEP 608

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 RESEARCH TECHNIQUES - MAY, 2018

ANSWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1

- a) Using examples, discuss the following concepts in research:
- 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) Using examples, explain how researchers should choose their research designs. (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 a 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

- a) 'The quality of a research design can be defined in terms of four key attributes'. Briefly discuss these attributes: (20 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)**

Question 4

- a) Discuss why research ethics are important. (5 marks)
- b) Discuss the following ethical principles in scientific research: (20 marks)
- i) Voluntary participation and harmlessness
 - ii) Anonymity and confidentiality
 - iii) Disclosure
 - iv) Data analysis and reporting.
- c) Ethical violations are grouped into two categories. Explain the types of violations falling under each of these categories. (10 marks)
- d) With the aid of examples, explain how researchers can protect themselves from ethical violations. (15 marks)
- (50 Marks)**