UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2006

TITLE OF PAPER	:	RESEARCH METHODS
COURSE CODE	:	SOC 201
TIME ALLOWED	:	THREE (3) HOURS
INSTRUCTIONS	:	1. ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS.
		2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GIVEN BY THE INVIGILATOR.

SECTION A

QUESTION 1

Describe the various steps involved in a research process.

QUESTION 2

Why is probability sampling generally preferred in comparison to non-probability sampling? Explain the procedure of selecting a simple random sample.

QUESTION 3

Enumerate the different methods of collecting data. Which one is the most suitable for conducting an enquiry regarding family welfare in Swaziland? Explain its merits and demerits.

QUESTION 4

How does one go about doing computerised literature search? What are its advantages and disadvantages?

QUESTION 5

What is the relationship between a topic, a research question and a hypothesis? Use examples to substantiate your answer.

QUESTION 6

For what types of research questions is content analysis appropriate? Illustrate your answer by giving examples.

QUESTION 7

"It is never safe to take published statistics at their face value without knowing their meaning and limitations". Elucidate this statement by enumerating and explaining the various points which you would consider before using any published data.

QUESTION 8

A group of university students was asked to indicate their most liked singer from among six different well known singers namely, A, B, C, D, E, F in order to ascertain their relative popularity. The observed frequency data were as follows:

Singers:	A	B	C	D	E	F	TOTAL
Frequencies:	24	20	32	25	28	21	150

Test at 5 per cent level of significance whether all singers are equally popular.