

Course Code: Soc 201 (M) 2007

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2007

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

What makes a good hypothesis? Identify the independent and dependent variables in the following and operationalize them.

- (a) Two groups of children were given different types of physical fitness programmes to determine whether the programmes had an effect on their strength.
- (b) A university lecturer was interested in determining the best way to teach introductory sociology and ensure that his students would learn the material.

QUESTION 2

Explain the difference between historical, correlational and quasi-experimental research.

QUESTION 3

Explain the ethical issues in the Milgram, Humphreys and Zimbardo experiments.

QUESTION 4

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of closed versus open-ended questions.

QUESTION 5

Explain the types of research questions for which content analysis is appropriate and discuss the units of analysis used in content analysis.

QUESTION 6

Describe the difference between the mean, median and mode. Calculate mean, median and mode for the following groups:

<u>GROUP I</u>	<u>GROUP II</u>
2	6
2	4
2	20
8	6
6	14
10	10

QUESTION 7

State whether the following hypotheses are correlational in nature.

- There is no difference in cognitive ability between pre-school children in child care settings and pre-school children who are cared for at home.
- There is no relationship between parents' education, socioeconomic status, and children's achievement levels in mathematics.
- There is no relationship between the rate of violent crime in Manzini and socioeconomic status.
- Calculate the rank order correlation for the following data.

<u>Length of Marriage in Years</u>	<u>Assessment of Marital Harmony</u>
8	51
9	40
3	33
12	72
18	99
21	88
4	12

QUESTION 8

When is snowball sampling appropriate? How does it differ from quota sampling? Discuss giving two examples for each.