

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2007

TITLE OF PAPER : **SOCIOLOGY OF ORGANIZATIONS**

COURSE CODE : **SOC408**

TIME ALLOWED : **TWO (2) HOURS**

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS.**
2. **ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS**

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SOC408: SOCIOLOGY OF ORGANIZATIONS

QUESTION 1

Define the term 'organization'. Distinguish simple from complex organizations.

QUESTION 2

What do you understand by the term 'the challenge of organization'? Briefly assess any three (3) ways by which managers of organizations have attempted to cope with this challenge in an organization that is familiar to you.

QUESTION 3

Consider the bureaucratic and systems models of organization. Based on your experience of how the University of Swaziland (or any other named similar organization) operates, identify and evaluate the model that is more suitable for understanding the character of modern organizations.

QUESTION 4

In what ways have Post-modernist theories of organization contributed to the understanding of the changing character of complex organizations?

QUESTION 5

Describe fully Robert Michels' 'Iron law of oligarchy'. Identify and discuss briefly three (3) changes that have occurred in the structure and management of organizations which may have softened the strength of the 'iron' in that law.

QUESTION 6

What do you understand by the term organizational processes? Pick any one element among these processes and explain its significance in an organization.