

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**FINAL EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER**

**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**

## Answer any four (4) Questions

All Questions carry equal marks

Time allowed Three (3) Hours

- Q1. Differentiate between the following terms: hypothesis, empirical generalization, law and theory by giving examples for each.
- Q2. With what kind of ethical issues do sociologists grapple and how do they attempt to resolve these issues? Give examples.
- Q3. Many studies have examined the effects of smoking on health. Some of these studies are based on experiments, analyzing the impact of tobacco on animals, while others are survey based, asking people about their smoking habits and their health, along with other factors. What could you learn about the effects of smoking on human health in a survey that you could not learn in an experiment? What could you learn in an experiment that you could not learn in a survey?
- Q4. Suppose your sociology lecturer has asked you to carry out a study on the increasing numbers of prostitutes in and around Matsapha, which research technique would you find most useful in conducting the study? Explain how you would use the technique to complete the study?
- Q5. Under what conditions are mail questionnaires, telephone interviews, web surveys or face to face interviews best suitable for data collection?
- Q.6 (a) Social researchers have been sceptical about the use of official statistics for research purposes. Discuss.

(10 Marks)

- (b) The following table shows the results of a survey in which random samples of parents of Form 5 pupils in three schools were asked whether they are for or against the removal of certain controversial topics from a required text book.

	<u>School 1</u>	<u>School 2</u>	<u>School 3</u>
For the removal of the topics	16	26	24
Against the removal	104	134	96

Use the level of significance  $\alpha=0.05$  to test whether the differences among the sample proportions (of parents favouring the removal of the controversial topics from the reading list) are significant.

(15 Marks)

- Q7. The following data represent the percentage of births under 2500gms (Y), and the fertility rate for females 17 to 35 years of age (X) for 6 chiefdoms in Manzini Region for the year 2007.

<u>Chiefdoms:</u>	1	2	3	4	5	6
Y:	42	52	46	38	46	44
X:	6.0	7.4	7.2	6.2	6.4	6.8

- (i) Make a scatter-gram of Y and X. (5 Marks)
- (ii) Draw the line that appears to best fit the data. (5 Marks)
- (iii) Calculate the correlation between Y and X (15 Marks)

8. Write notes on any four (4) of the following:

- (i) Content Analysis
- (ii) Using Internet for Research
- (iii) Basic and Applied Research
- (iv) Qualitative Interviewing
- (v) Triangulation
- (vi) Coding
- (vii) Descriptive statistics