

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER APRIL/MAY 2014

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
3. TOTAL MARKS 100
4. USE PROVIDED TABLES AND FORMULA
5. USE YOUR CALCULATORS

THIS QUESTION PAPER MUST NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

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SOC 201 RESEARCH METHODS

Final examination question paper April/May 2014

- Q. 1 Differentiate the following terms: hypothesis, empirical generalization, law and theory. Give examples of each.
- Q. 2 Explain the purposes for which research is undertaken and outline the various stages in carrying out social research.
- Q. 3 What are the advantages of using samples? Distinguish between probability and non-probability sampling techniques.
Given a population of 300 non-academic staff at UNISWA, write a directive for selecting a simple random sample of 30 staff members by using random numbers. Indicate the numbers of the first five (5) staff chosen using the table of random numbers. (Use the table of Random numbers provided)
- Q. 4 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?
- Q. 5 Discuss the importance of ethical issues in research. Explain the ethical issues involved in Miligram and Zimbardo experiments.
- Q. 6 What are the principal stages of field research? Explain the functions of gatekeepers and key informants in relation to gaining access giving examples.
- Q. 7 Determine the Chi-square value for the following information and state whether the two attributes *condition of home* and *condition of child* are independent.

<u>Condition of Child</u>	<u>Condition of Home</u>		<u>Total</u>
	Clean	Dirty	
Clean	110	70	180
Fairly Clean	100	30	130
Dirty	50	60	110
<u>Total</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>420</u>

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

- (i) Snowball sampling.
- (ii) Quasi-experimental design.
- (iii) The Stanford County Prison study.
- (iv) Cluster samples
- (v) Pre-test Post test control group design
- (vi) Ethics of data collection and analysis.