

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER MAY 2014

TITLE OF PAPER: ADVANCED THEORY & METHODS IN
SOCIOLOGY

COURSE CODE: SOC 413

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 413 ADVANCED THEORY AND METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY

FINAL EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER

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Answer any four (4) questions. All questions carry equal marks. Total marks 100

Question No. 1.

What makes science a special “way” of knowing? What are the important traits of scientific sociology? How does interpretive sociology differ from scientific sociology?

Question No. 2.

Auguste Comte gave sociology its name in 1838. Whereas previous social thought had focused on what sociology ought to be, Comte’s new discipline of sociology used scientific methods to understand society as it is. Critically discuss.

Question No. 3.

Consider the ethical implications of covert research. Discuss the extent to which it may be justified to mislead the subjects of research or to study them without their knowledge.

Question No. 4.

According to Garfinkel, ethnomethodology examines processes through which people sustain a taken for granted sense of reality in their everyday encounter. Discuss.

Question No. 5.

In what ways might the analysis of websites pose particular difficulties that are less likely to be encountered in the analysis of non-electronic documents?

Question No. 6.

How does the field researcher’s approach to research differ from that of the experimenter and survey researcher? Discuss giving examples.

Question No. 7.

Critics of postmodernism argue that we can develop overall theories of the social world, and in a way that will enable us to intervene to shape it better. Discuss.

Question No. 8.

(a) Statistics is important in data analysis. Why have many social researchers been sceptical about the use of official statistics for research purposes?

(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 books from a required reading list:

	<u>School 1</u>	<u>School 2</u>	<u>School 3</u>
For the removal of the topics	16	26	38
Against the removal	44	54	62

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 books from the reading list) are statistically significant.