UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL WORK

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER MAY 2016

TITLE OF PAPER: RESEARCH METHODS

COURSE CODE: SOC 201

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:
1. ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS.

2. EACH QUESTION IS WORTH 25 MARKS.

3. TOTAL MARKS 100

4. YOU MAY USE A CALCULATOR AND TABLES PROVIDED

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

Q.1   What are the four main strategies of doing research? Describe their applications, advantages and limitations.   25 marks

Q2.   What is research? Explain the purposes for which research is undertaken and describe the various steps involved in research.   25 marks

Q3.   What is a hypothesis? Describe the characteristics of a good hypothesis. Determine the variables in the following hypotheses.
       Unionised workers have better conditions of service than non-unionised workers of the same age group and profession.
       Male workers are better off than their female counterparts.   25 marks

Q4.   Discuss the factors that influence topic selection in research and the importance of carrying out literature review in writing research proposals. 25 marks

Q5.   Distinguish between primary and secondary sources of information. What precautions would you take prior to using data from a secondary source?   25 marks

Q6.   Why is it so important for scientists to be completely honest and accurate in conducting and reporting research?   25 marks

Q7.   The following data gives fertilizer consumption and production of maize over a plot of a farmer in Manzini region, for six successive years.

Year	Fertilizer Consumption (in hundreds of kg)	Maize Production (in hundreds of kg)
2009	1.2	24
2010	1.4	28
2011	1.7	36
2012	1.9	38
2013	2.2	39
2014	2.5	39

Calculate the Karl Pearson's co-efficient of correlation and explain its significance.
                                                                                25 marks

Q8.   Two researchers adopted different sampling techniques while investigating the same group of students in order to find the number of students failing in different intelligence levels. The results are as follows:

Number of students in each level

Researcher	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Genius	Total
X	86	60	44	10	200
Y	40	33	25	2	100

Would you say that the sampling techniques adopted by the two researchers are significantly different? (Given 5 % value of chi-square for 3df and 4df are 7.82 and 9.49 respectively.)   25 marks