UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL WORK

FINAL EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER MAY 2017

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)   Use of Calculator is allowed.
(4)   Total marks 100

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

Answer any Four (4) Questions. All questions carry equal marks

Question No. 1

    (a) How does science guide the activities of social researchers?

    (b) Give examples of scientific and non-scientific questions that could be asked about the following topics:

    (i) Capital punishment

    (ii) Abortion

    (iii)Intelligence

    (iv)Terrorism

Question No. 2

Explain the following terms:

    (i)   Hypothesis

    (ii)   Empirical generalisation

    (iii)   Law, and

    (iv)   Theory

Question No. 3

What are the four major strategies for understanding the social world? Discuss using examples.

Question No. 4

Discuss the various stages of conducting social research.

Question No. 5

Distinguish between participant and non-participant observation. Explain why participant observation is more common in field research.

Question No. 6

Research ethics are not hard and fast dos and don'ts. However they pose dilemmas for researchers. Discuss.

Question No. 7

Discuss the statement by Connor that "Statistics are measurements, enumeration or estimates of natural or social phenomena, systematically arranged so as to exhibit their inter-relations."

Question No. 8

    (a) Discuss the relative merits of mean, median and mode.

    (b) The number of telephone calls received in 245 successive one-minute intervals at an exchange are shown in the following frequency distribution:

Number of Calls	Frequency
0	14
1	21
2	25
3	43
4	51
5	40
6	39
7	12

Evaluate the mean, median and mode.