

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL WORK**

**FINAL EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER MAY 2017**

**TITLE OF PAPER:       ADVANCED THEORY AND  
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.**

**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

Explain the idea that there are various types of truth. What are the advantages and limitations of science as a way of discovering truth?

Question No. 2

Applying the sociological perspective can make us seem less in control of our lives. Discuss.

Question No. 3

To what extent can the theories of Dahrendorf be seen as improving Marx's ideas on class and conflict?

Question No. 4

Compare and contrast scientific sociology and critical sociology.

Question No. 5

From a standpoint of the consumers of research evidence, why is it important to study research methods?

Question No. 6

The "Web" is a valuable resource but it is unreliable and contains a huge volume of information that must be evaluated carefully. Critically discuss.

Question no. 7

A researcher gains access to a clinic providing services to AIDS patients by responding to a call for volunteers. While working at the clinic, she makes a record of patient's names and later approaches them and identifies herself as a researcher doing a sociological research. She explains the nature of her research and asks them for their co-operation. Most patients agree, although some react negatively to the request. Discuss the aspects of the researcher's strategy that are problematic.

Question no. 8

- (i) Discuss the importance of Statistics in the Social Sciences.
- (ii) Comment on the following statements:
  - (a) "Statistics is a science of counting" (Bowley)
  - (b) "Statistics is a science of estimates and probability" (Buddington)
  - (c) "Statistics may rightly be called averages" (Bowley)