UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER 2007

TITLE OF PAPER	:	RESEARCH METHODS
COURSE CODE	:	ST332
TIME ALLOWED	:	2 (TWO) HOURS
REQUIRMENTS	:	NONE
INSTRUCTIONS	:	ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS.
		ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

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ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE.   [5 + 5 + 5 + 5 marks]

Suppose you want to estimate the proportion of students in UNISWA who read newspapers. You know that the registrar keeps only one alphabetical list of all students. Assume there are 5896 students in the current year. You propose to choose a number at random from 1 to 30, count that far down the list, taking that name and every 30th name after it for the sample. Your friend proposes to select randomly 3 faculties and select 50 students randomly from each selected faculty. Assume that your proposed sampling method is Method A and that of your friend is Method B. Based on the above facts, answer the following questions:

1.1   State the following for the above two sampling methods, separately:

        (a)   Population and its size.
        (b)   Sample sizes.
        (c)   Sampling methods.
        (d)   Parameter and Statistic.

1.2   State the sampling frame of the above survey. Is it possible to draw a sample in each of those two methods using the above sampling frame? Explain why or why not?

1.3   Are both methods probability sampling? Which method will provide you better estimate? Explain.

1.4   Suppose the list of all students is not available. Which of the two sampling methods will you choose? Why?

QUESTION TWO.   [10 + 10 marks]

2.1   State and discuss the main points of writing items for a well-constructed mail questionnaire.

2.2   Briefly discuss the different modes of data collection. At the end make a summary table for comparison of those modes you discussed.

QUESTION THREE.   [12 + 8 marks]

3.1   State and define three basic probability sampling techniques and three basic non-probability sampling techniques.

3.2   Discuss the main advantages and disadvantages of probability sampling over non-probability sampling.

QUESTION FOUR.

[12 + 8 marks]

4.1   Suppose you want to conduct a survey among students of your university about their awareness of environmental pollution in Swaziland. Give a title for the above study and describe the steps and decisions involved in selecting the sample.

4.2   Outline the main points of writing a research proposal.

QUESTION FIVE.

[20 marks]

Discuss the differences between the following pairs of terms:

- (i)   Population and Sample
- (ii)   Survey and Census
- (iii)   Descriptive Survey and Explanatory Survey
- (iv)   Results and Conclusions.
- (v)   Validity and Reliability