

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER 2009**

**TITLE OF PAPER: RESEARCH TECHNIQUES IN DEMOGRAPHY**

**COURSE CODE : DEM 305**

**TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS : THIS PAPER HAS FIVE QUESTIONS. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS.**

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**QUESTION 1 (8+6+6 marks)**

- a. What sources of knowledge are alternatives to social research?
- b. Why is social research usually better than the alternatives?
- c. Is social research always right? Can it answer any question? Explain.

**QUESTION 2 (8+6+6 marks)**

- a. Outline the reasons why research is conducted.
- b. What does it mean to say that steps involved in conducting a research study are not rigidly fixed?
- c. What is the difference between inductive research and deductive research?

**QUESTION 3 (8+12 marks)**

- a. Describe the interrelationship between theory and research. Use examples in demography to illustrate the relationship.
- b. What are the norms of the scientific community with regard to the conduct of research? What are their effects?

**QUESTION 4 (4+4+4+4+4 marks)**

Explain the differences between the following:

- a. applied and basic research;
- b. qualitative and quantitative research;
- c. association and causality among variables;
- d. research topic, research question, and a hypothesis;
- e. probability sampling and non-probability sampling.

**QUESTION 5 (20 marks)**

**Quantitative research is superior to qualitative research. Critically discuss.**