

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY 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 QUESTION 1 AND ANY OTHER THREE (3) QUESTIONS.

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QUESTION 1 (20 marks)

Select the most correct answer.

1. Research

- a. is the use of systematic, explicit methods and logical reasoning which can be examined critically.
- b. is limited to measurement and statistical approaches.
- c. depends on the researcher's personal qualifications.
- d. is characterized as being unquestionable or absolute, beyond a shadow of doubt.

2. A theory, generated and verified by research, is useful because it

- a. provides a simple explanation of observed relations.
- b. accounts for accumulated evidence.
- c. is general enough to cover many individual cases and manifestations.
- d. all the above are correct.

3. The most general abstract knowledge is derived from:

- a. evaluation research on a practice.
- b. applied research in a given field.
- c. basic research in a physical, behavioral, and social science.
- d. educational research.

4. An explanation-that is, a statement of relations of some particular though broad phenomena - is not

- a. theory.
- b. a scientific law.
- c. an analytic generalization.
- d. an expert opinion.

5. Knowledge based on systematic collection and analysis of data is

- a. a belief
- b. research
- c. expert opinion
- d. tradition

Statements 6 through 10 are functions of different types of research, basic, applied, and evaluation research. Match each of the functions with the type of research.

6. tests theories and explains relations in physical behavioral, and social sciences
7. assesses the merit and worth of a particular practice at a given site
8. tests the usefulness of scientific theories in a given field
9. establishes an accepted body of research-based knowledge in a given field
10. develops knowledge, furthers research and methodology.

QUESTION 2 (14+6 marks)

- a. Describe the steps involved in conducting research.
- b. What does it mean to say that steps involved in conducting a research study are not rigidly fixed?

QUESTION 3 (20 marks)

Fully describe the nature and assumptions of quantitative research.

QUESTION 4 (15+5 marks)

- a. What is the relationship between a topic, a research question and a hypothesis? Use examples in demography to illustrate.
- b. Restate the following in terms of a hypothesis with independent and dependent variables: "The number of miles a person drives in a year affects the number of visits a person makes to filling stations, and

there is a positive unidirectional relationship between the variables."

QUESTION 5 (20 marks)

What are the similarities and differences between a research proposal and research report?