

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER 2011**

**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.**

**PLEASE DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN  
GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR**

**QUESTION 1 (15+10 marks)**

- a. What are focus group discussions? Why do you think they have become popular as a method of collecting data in social research?
- b. Explain fully why social research is better than the alternative sources of knowledge.

**QUESTION 2 (6+8+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? Explain fully, using examples.
- 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?

**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. an abstract and an executive summary;
- d. a research question and a hypothesis; and
- e. a leading question and knowledge question.

**QUESTION 5 (10+10 marks)**

Write short but informative notes on any two of the following:

- a. Experimental research;
- b. Survey research;
- c. Field research; and
- d. Case study research.