UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER 2011

TITLE OF PAPER: DEMOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL
AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

COURSE CODE : DEM 407

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS : ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS (ANY TWO
FROM SECTION A AND ANY TWO FROM
SECTION B)

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GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR**

SECTION A   (ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS)

QUESTION 1 (13+12 marks)

a. Describe how persons are classified into economically active and economically inactive categories under the labour force approach. What are the problems associated with this approach?

b. Describe how the following non-demographic factors affect labour force participation:
   i. cultural practices;
   ii. wage level; and
   iii. government regulation.

QUESTION 2   (15+10marks)

a. Why is human resource development an important factor in socioeconomic development?

b. In terms of policy, what would you recommend as the main areas of emphasis in the pursuit of human resource development in the context of Swaziland's socioeconomic situation?

QUESTION 3   (12+13 marks)

a. Explain fully the differences between the following concepts:
   i. unemployment and underemployment;
   ii. crude activity rate and general activity rate;
   iii. age dependency ratio and economic dependency ratio;
   iv. frictional unemployment and cyclical unemployment.

b. What is human resource planning? Briefly describe the inputs required for effective human resource planning.

QUESTION 4   (10+15 marks)

a. Labour force projections are considered to be derived projections. Comment on the statement, and outline the assumptions usually used in their preparation.

b.   Describe a working life table and the assumptions on which it is based. Also list its main columns and describe what each of the columns portrays.

SECTION B   (ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS)

QUESTION 5   (16+9 marks)

a.   Discuss fully the demographic correlates of health behaviour and health care utilization.

b.   Briefly describe the relationship between mortality and economic development.

QUESTION 6   (15+10 marks)

a.   Outline the reasons for the historical decline in mortality, making sure to distinguish the situation of developing countries from the developed countries.

b.   Briefly describe the different models of the epidemiological transition theory and its applicability to developing countries such as Swaziland.

QUESTION 7   (12+13 marks)

a.   Discuss the concept of cumulative causation in migration and the factors that bring it about.

b.   In the long run, emigration from developing countries stems from a lack of economic development. In the short run, however, development does not reduce the impetus for migration; it increases it." Discuss this statement.

QUESTION 8   (13 +12 marks)

Critically discuss the following theories of fertility decline and their relevance to developing countries such as Swaziland:
    a.   Lesthaege's "secularization" theory; and
    b.   Caldwell's "wealth flow" theory.