

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER 2012

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO DEMOGRAPHY

COURSE CODE: DEM 101

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS, ALL ARE WORTH 25 MARKS. QUESTION 1 IS COMPULSORY.

REQUIREMENTS: CALCULATOR

THIS PAPER SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

Question 1 (COMPULSORY) [6+5+4+10 marks]

- a. Defining all symbols, describe briefly the balancing equation which relates the number of people in a population at two points in time.
- b. Suppose there were 100,000 forty year olds in a particular population and that the growth rate of the population in this age group was 3% per annum.
 - i. Estimate the number of these forty year olds in five years time, using the exponential growth model.
 - ii. What is the advantage of using the exponential growth model?
- c. What is meant by doubling time? Compute the doubling time for a population growing at 2.9%.
- d. Briefly describe the following models of population growth: arithmetic and geometric.

Question 2 [3+8+14 marks]

- a. What is a population policy?
- b. The role of governments is to formulate population policies. Explain how government decisions would affect demographic behaviour of individuals or couples.
- c. What is the rationale and objectives of the national population policy of a developing country such as Swaziland?

Question 3 [5+20 marks]

- a. What does it mean to have a “young” or “old” population?
- b. How does rapid population growth affect the overall development of a country?

Question 4 [4+4+4+1+12 marks]

- a. Write short but comprehensive notes on the following:
 - i. Population census;
 - ii. The usefulness of mortality and morbidity statistics.
- b. What are ratios, proportions, probabilities and rates?
- c. What is the importance of age-sex structure of a population?
- d. Describe a population pyramid, how it is constructed, and the factors that determine its shape.