UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER 2015

TITLE OF PAPER   :   RESEARCH METHODS

COURSE CODE   :   ST332

TIME ALLOWED   :   2 (TWO) HOURS

REQUIRMENTS   :   NONE

INSTRUCTIONS   :   ANSWER ANY 4 (FOUR) QUESTIONS.
ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

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

QUESTION ONE.   [10 + 5 + 5 + 5 marks]

Suppose you want to estimate the average IQ of students in UNISWA. You want to organize a written IQ examination for a group of randomly selected students. You know that the university keeps only alphabetical list of the students by the faculty. Assume that there are 4897 students in the current academic year. You propose to choose a sample of 250 students randomly without replacement. Your friend proposes to select randomly 3 faculties and select 80 students randomly from each selected faculty. Assume that your proposed sampling method is Method A and that of your friend is Method B. Based on the above facts, answer the following questions:

1.1   State the following for the above study:

   (a)   Population and its size.
   (b)   Parameter and Statistic.
   (c)   Sample sizes.
   (d)   Sampling methods.

1.2   State the sampling frame of the above survey. Is it possible to draw a sample in each of those two methods using the above sampling frame? Explain why or why not?

1.3   Are both methods probability sampling? Which method will provide you better estimate? Explain.

1.4   Suppose the university only keeps one alphabetic list of all students of UNISWA. Which of the two sampling methods will you choose? Why?

QUESTION TWO.   [10 + 15 marks]

2.1   Discuss the importance of reviewing previous research in the formulation of new research problem.

2.2   Identify and discuss the potential sources of research problem.

QUESTION THREE.   [15 + 10 marks]

3.1   Suppose you want to conduct a survey among students of your university about their awareness of water pollution in Swaziland. Give a title for the above study and describe the procedures involved in selecting the sample.

3.2   List all the important components, in proper sequences, of writing a research report.

QUESTION FOUR.   [15 + 10 marks]

4.1   Discuss the different modes of data collection in terms of their advantages and disadvantages. At the end, make a summary table for comparison of those modes you discussed.

4.2   Discuss the main advantages and disadvantages of probability sampling over non-probability sampling.

QUESTION FIVE.   [25 marks]

Discuss the differences between the following pairs of terms:

5.1   Statement of the Problem and Objective of the Study.
5.2   Survey and Census.
5.3   Results of the study and Recommendations of the study.
5.4   Data Analysis and Data Organization.
5.5   Population and Sample.