

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS AND DEMOGRAPHY
MAIN EXAMINATION 2015/16

**TITLE OF PAPER : DEMOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL
AND ECONOMIC ISSUES**

COURSE CODE : DEM 407

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS : ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS. TWO QUESTIONS EACH
FROM SECTION A OR B AS SPECIFIED IN THE PAPER.
EACH QUESTION IS WORTH 25 MARKS.**

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

ANSWER FOUR QUESTIONS

SECTION A

Question 1

[Total=25 marks]

- a. Describe fully the differences in the mortality of individuals and groups with respect to age, gender, marital status and socioeconomic status.
- b. Outline the reasons for the historical decline in mortality, making sure to distinguish the situation of developing countries from the developed countries.

Either

Question 2

[Total=25 marks]

What are the links among educational systems, labor markets, and employment determination in many developing countries?

Or

Question 3

[Total=25 marks]

- a. Explain fully the meaning of the following concepts and measures of human resources and poverty:
 - i. Open unemployment [3]
 - ii. Disguised underemployment [2]
 - iii. Hidden unemployment [2]
 - iv. General activity rate. [3]
 - v. Gini coefficient [2]
 - vi. Total poverty gap [3]
- b. Outline and briefly explain five reasons why policies focused toward reducing poverty levels need not lead to a slower rate of growth. [10]

SECTION B

Question 4

[Total=25 marks]

How does microeconomic theory of fertility relate to the theory of consumer choice? Do you think that economic incentives and disincentives influence family size decisions?

Either

Question 5

[Total=25 marks]

Describe briefly Zelinsky (1971)'s hypothesis of mobility transition. This conceptual model or framework is applicable to contemporary developing countries. Discuss.

Or

Question 6

[Total=25 marks]

Describe briefly the Harris-Todaro migration theory and its policy implications. Critically appraise its contemporary relevance to developing countries.