

95



UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER

PROGRAMME: **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL
ECONOMICS AND AGRIBUSINESS
MANAGEMENT YEAR III**

COURSE CODE: **AEM 305**

TITLE OF PAPER: **RESEARCH METHODS**

TIME ALLOWED: **TWO (2) HOURS**

INSTRUCTION: **1. ANSWER ALL FOUR (4) QUESTIONS**

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BY THE CHIEF INVIGILATOR**

QUESTION ONE

Section A

**Choose the answer that best fits the statement in this question (16
Marks)**

1. Which of the following would be an example of *applied research*?

- A) Research to satisfy intellectual curiosity
- B) Research on a problem in need of improvement
- C) Research on whom citizens decide to vote for
- D) Research for theoretical purposes

2. Which of the following is the textbook definition of the word *empirical*?

- A) Consistent with common sense
- B) Contradictory to common sense
- C) Something that is "known" to be true
- D) Something grounded in observation and experience

3. What does it mean when it is said scientific knowledge is *transmissible*?

- A) It means the data was collected by a team of researchers
- B) It means that scientific knowledge is non-normative
- C) It means that the research can be analyzed and replicated
- D) It means that original incorrect results can be made to correct themselves

4. Which of the following is NOT a building block of social scientific research?

- A) Induction
- B) Hypothesis
- C) Concept
- D) Variable

5. Which of the following is the textbook definition of a *hypothesis*?

- A) A statement proposing the relationship between two or more concepts
- B) A statement proposing the relationship between two or more variables
- C) A statement consisting of an educated guess about some phenomenon
- D) A statement that is empirically specific about some phenomenon

6. Representativeness is what one is after with interpretation, and generalizeability is what one is after with sampling.

- A) True
- B) False

7. The difference between explanation and prediction in science is that:

- A) Predictions are testable; explanations are not
- B) Predictions involve logical deduction; explanations involve logical induction
- C) Explanations refer to the past or present; predictions refer to the future
- D) Explanations have been empirically verified; predictions have not

Section B.

Discuss the Importance of sampling in the research process (9 MARKS).

QUESTION TWO

- a) Briefly discuss the main components of a research proposal (15 MARKS)
- b) Why is it important to have a research proposal before one conducts research? (10 MARKS).

Question three

- a) What is literature review? Why is it important to conduct literature review, when conducting a scientific research? 15 marks)
- b) Discuss the different sources of literature review. In your answer indicate the advantages and disadvantages of each source. (10 marks)

Question four

Briefly discuss any three (3) methods of collecting survey data and indicate the strengths and weaknesses of each. **(25 MARKS).**