

1ST SEM. 2010/11

UNIVERSITY



OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER

PROGRAMME : YEAR III: FSNT, COS, COSE, TADM

COURSE CODE : COS 301

TITLE OF PAPER : RESEARCH METHODS

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS : ANSWER QUESTION ONE (1)
AND ANY OTHER TWO (2) QUESTIONS**

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GRANTED BY THE CHIEF INVIGILATOR**

QUESTION ONE – [COMPULSORY]

- a. **Sample surveys and case studies** can be applied in social science research. Describe one research study question/situation where each type is most applicable. Which of the two types of study give findings that **cannot** be generalized? (8 marks)
- b. Differentiate between a directional and a non-directional null hypotheses giving appropriate examples. Which one can be tested using a two-tailed T-test (8 marks)
- c. You have quoted an article by Edje (2010) in your literature review. In 2010, O.T. Edje wrote a book chapter on 'Drought and food security in Swaziland'. The chapter is on pages 130 to 151 in a book entitled 'Socio-economic Development and the Environment in Swaziland', published by The Department of Geography, University of Swaziland. The University is located in Kwaluseni city, Swaziland. The editors of the book are D.S. Tevera and J.I. Matondo. Write this information as it should appear in the reference section of a research report. (8 marks)
- d. What are the differences between control and independent variables? (8 Marks)
- e. What do you understand by the term 'significant difference' between means in statistical analyses? (8 marks)

[TOTAL 40 MARKS]

QUESTION TWO

- a. Discuss the importance of random sampling in research? (15 marks)
- b. Describe three types of variables encountered in research (15 marks)

[TOTAL 30 MARKS]

QUESTION THREE

- a. How does 'Discussion of results' differ from 'Literature review' in a research report?
(20 marks)
- b. What is "plagiarism" and how can you quote an author word for word without plagiarizing?
(10 marks)

[TOTAL 30 MARKS]

QUESTION FOUR

Good Research stands on the work of others. Discuss the validity and importance of this statement.

(15 marks)

Research findings are generally regarded as factual and unbiased. Give ways that researchers can use to avoid bias in their results and conclusions from their research studies.

(15 Marks)

[TOTAL 30 MARKS]