

University of Swaziland
Faculty of Humanities &
Institute of Distance Education
Department of Theology & Religious Studies

2016/2017 Second Semester Main Examination Paper May, 2017

Course Code: TRS 300
Course Title: Research Methodology
Duration: Two (2) Hrs.

Instructions

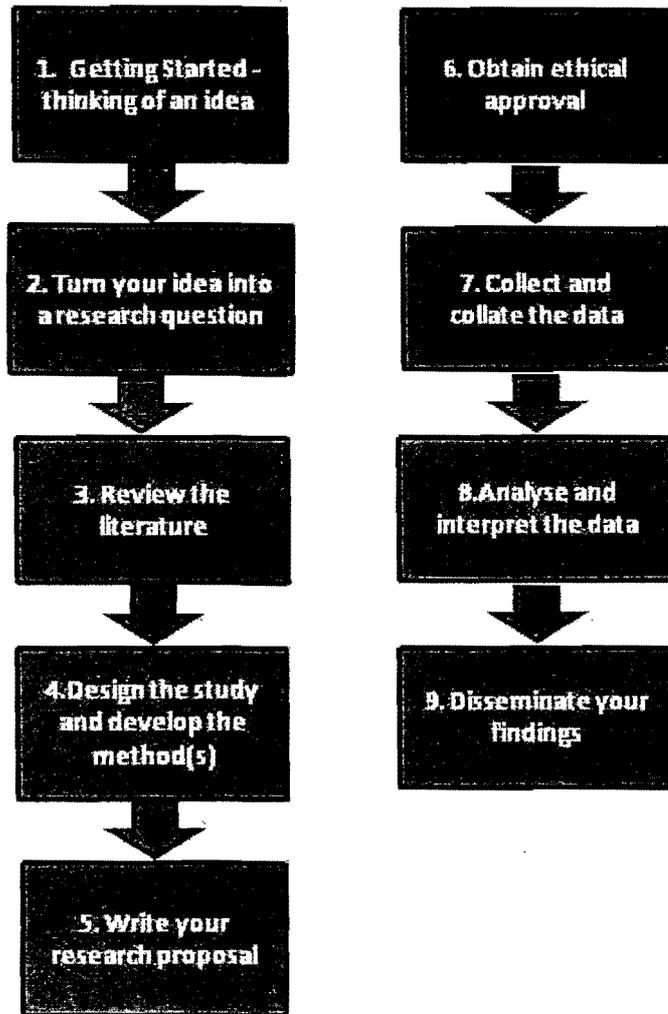
- a. Choose and answer three (3) questions in all.
- b. Your answer to each question should not exceed two pages.
- c. Indicate on the front cover of your answer script your programme of study and whether you are a full time or IDE candidate.

NB: All questions are worth 25 marks.

**DO NOT OPEN THIS QUESTION PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR
GRANTS YOU PERMISSION TO DO SO.**

Question 1

Write comprehensive notes on the following info-graphic:



Question 2

Explain the necessity of conducting research on religion. In your explanation, include examples of research issues from the local and global contexts that are topical.

Question 3

From the following scenario descriptions, generate two separate lists; one for the scenarios that warrant research and another for those that do not require research. Provide an explanation for your placement in either list of each of the scenario descriptions.

- shortage of teaching staff in a given organisation
- poor performance of students in a particular course
- late arrival of students for class sessions
- rising incidence of student contestation of examination grades
- a news report of a traditional leader announcing a ban on establishing new churches in his chiefdom
- sporadic episodes of violent conflict between two religious communities in a country
- escape of a murder convict from a maximum security correctional facility
- a leadership disputes within a Christian congregation
- holding of daily religious services at tea time in a particular health facility
- rising incidence of murder of people with albinism

Question 4

Formulate feasible research questions and corresponding problem statements from each of the social circumstances:

- the recent change of the Religious Education curriculum from a multi-faith syllabus to a Bible-based one
- Christian fellowship services
- student's WhatsApp study groups
- publication of the Swaziland Kairos Document
- holding of communal prayers by civil society members at horrific public service vehicle accident sites

Question 5

Choose and justify appropriate data collection methods (s) for each of the following studies:

- ❖ Students' response to lecturers' written feedback on their coursework scripts;
- ❖ Constitutional provisions for the protection of citizen's religious rights and freedoms in five countries in the SADC region
- ❖ The main actors and their roles in the Incwala national ceremony
- ❖ The underlying spirituality of tombstone unveiling ceremonies: five family case studies
- ❖ An evaluation of the chaplaincy programme in the country's Correctional Services

Question 6

Identify and explain some pitfalls to be avoided in writing a research report for a qualitative study.
