

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2009

<u>TITLE OF PAPER</u>	:	ADVANCED THEORY AND METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY
<u>COURSE CODE</u>	:	SOC413
<u>TIME ALLOWED</u>	:	THREE (3) HOURS
<u>INSTRUCTIONS</u>	1.	ANSWER <u>FOUR</u> QUESTIONS IN ALL; <u>TWO</u> (2) FROM SECTION A, AND <u>TWO</u> (2) FROM SECTION B.
	2.	ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS

**THIS QUESTION PAPER MUST NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION
HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

SOC413: ADVANCED THEORY AND METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY

SECTION A: Answer two (2) questions from this section.

1. Evaluate a theoretical tradition of your choice in terms of its basic assumptions, key concepts and major arguments. In your analysis, point out the tradition's major strengths and weaknesses.
2. To what extent would you agree with critical theory's assertion that the locus of domination in modern society has shifted from the economy to the cultural sphere?
3. Critically discuss Alfred Schutz's phenomenological theory of intersubjectivity and interpretive participation.
4. With specific reference to the dominant sociological paradigms, critically discuss the four basic levels of social reality.

SECTION B: Answer two (2) questions from this section.

5. In undertaking research, a sociologist can use a variety of techniques. The method chosen will be influenced by the nature of the issue being examined and by the theoretical approach preferred by the researcher. Discuss.
6. You are a sociologist planning to start a research project seeking information on ritualistic abuse. A friend tells you that he/she knows of satanic cult meetings held regularly in the area. Most of their activities are harmless but there is a rumour that an animal is to be slaughtered for sacrifice. Your friend tells you he/she knows of a member looking for new recruits. You feel this is a rare opportunity of getting access to the group which may not come up again. Explain how you would continue with your research and examine the ethical consequences of the methods of research that you propose to follow.
7. (a) Statistics are important in data analysis. Why have many social researchers been sceptical about the use of official statistics for research purpose?

(b) The following table shows the results of a survey in which random samples of parents of Form 5 pupils in three schools were asked whether they are for or against the removal of certain controversial books from a required reading list:

	<u>School 1</u>	<u>School 2</u>	<u>School 3</u>
For the removal of the books	8	13	12
Against the removal	52	67	48

Use the level of significance $\alpha=0.05$ to test whether the differences among the sample proportions (of parents favouring the removal of the controversial books from the reading list) are significant.

8. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of any two (2) of the following:

- (i) Content Analysis
- (ii) Using Internet for Research
- (iii) Qualitative Interviewing
- (iv) Triangulation