UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER 2008

TITLE OF PAPER: DEMOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL

AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

COURSE CODE : DEM 407

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

ANSWER FIVE QUESTIONS. QUESTION 1 IS

COMPULSORY.

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

QUESTION 1 (12+8 marks)

- a. Describe a working life table, the assumptions on which it is constructed, and its applications.
- b. Below is an extract of a life table from a certain population:

| Age Group | Survivors at age x | Person-years lived |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|
| x, x+n | lx | Lx |
| 60-64 | 46 940 | 216 798 |
| 65-69 | 39 779 | 176 886 |
| 70-74 | 30 973 | 122 035 |
| 75+ | 20 641 | 124 507 |

Construct a working life table for this population given the following age-specific activity rates:

| Age group | Age specific activity rates |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 60-64 | 0.086 |
| 65-69 | 0.075 |
| 70-74 | 0.045 |
| 75+ | 0.026 |

QUESTION 2 (4+4+4+4 marks)

Explain fully the differences between the following concepts and measures:

- a. unemployment and underemployment;
- b. crude activity rate and general activity rate;
- c. age dependency ratio and economic dependency ratio;
- d. occupation and industry of a worker; and
- e. unpaid family worker and homemaker.

QUESTION 3 (12+8 marks)

- a. Explain fully the following measures and their use:
 - (i) gross years of active life;
 - (ii) net years of active life;
 - (iii) replacement rate; and
 - (iv) replacement ratio.

b. Describe labour force projections and the assumptions usually used in their preparation.

QUESTION 4 (7+7+6 marks)

Write short critical notes on the following fertility theories/hypotheses:

- a. Relative income hypothesis (Easterlin);
- b. New home economics (Becker and Willis);
- c. secularization and individualism (Lesthaeghe)

QUESTION 5 (6+8+8 marks)

Briefly describe the following theoretical approaches to migration:

- a. Intervening opportunities/obstacles;
- b. Beshers' modes of orientation; and
- c. Cumulative causation and migration.

QUESTION 6 (20 marks)

Critically discuss the epidemiological transition theory (Omran). Make sure to discuss its applicability to developing countries in the era of HIV and AIDS.

QUESTION 7 (10+10 marks)

- a. Describe the relationship between labour force participation of women and fertility in the context of developing and developed countries.
- b. What are the issues that make female labour force participation different from that of males?