

**UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
EXAMINATION: JUNE 2011**

**SCHOOL : ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
LEVEL : HONOURS
MODULE : CONCEPTS AND METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY
CODE : GEOG 700H1**

DURATION: 3 HOURS

TOTAL MARKS: 300

**INTERNAL EXAMINERS: PROF B. MAHARAJ
EXTERNAL EXAMINER: PROF C. SEETHAL,
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Instructions: ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS.
ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION A AND ONE QUESTION FROM
SECTION B, AND THE THIRD QUESTION FROM EITHER SECTION A OR
SECTION B.

Section A: Concepts

1. Johnston and Sideway's book, Geography and Geographers, provides a survey of the major debates, key thinkers and schools of thought in human geography in the English-speaking world, setting them within the context of economic, social, cultural and political as well as intellectual changes. Do you agree with this view? Write a critical review of the book.
2. Few terms have provoked more debate than 'environmentalism', 'determinism', 'colonialism' and 'racism'. Critically assess how geographers have interpreted these terms since the 19th century and their subsequent influence on the trajectory of the discipline of Geography.
3. For much of the nineteenth- and twentieth-century history of the discipline, distinguished geographers attempted to defend or define the scientific status of geography. Critically assess this statement, referring to examples.
4. Radicalism has been viewed as a progressive force in human geography. Critically assess the evolution and impact of radical approaches in geography, supporting your answer with examples. Comment on the relevance of radical approaches in geography in the 21st century.

5. In contemporary international human geography, gender studies have been recognised as an important academic sub-discipline. Critically assess the major debates and research themes that have been associated with this sub-discipline since the 1970s.
6. In South Africa the shift from apartheid to a democratic society “signalled an important shift from ‘geographies of protest’ to ‘geographies for reconstruction and development’” (Mather, 2007:145). Do you agree with this view? Discuss with reference to examples.

Section B: Research Methods

7. Multi-method is a generic term that encompasses a wide range of research strategies; it may be deployed strategically; it may be used over the course of a research project; and it may breach the qualitative/quantitative divide. Critically assess the adoption of multi-method approaches in geography, referring to examples.
8. Focus groups are time-consuming and result in mountains of data. Critically assess this statement, referring to the appropriateness of the adoption of a focus-group methodology, how to set up focus groups, designing the focus-group interview schedule, overcoming ethical issues, conducting the pilot study and analyzing focus-group data.
9. Write a research proposal for approval by the university’s Higher Degrees’ Committee. Your proposal must include aim, objectives, geographical relevance, theoretical context, key literature and methodology.
10. Ethics is on the agenda in geography and much time and effort have been spent in recent years exploring a variety of ethical issues and approaches. Do you agree with this view? Critically assess ethical debates and dilemmas in geography, with reference to examples.