

**UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL**  
**SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL, EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**  
**DISCIPLINE OF GEOGRAPHY**  
**MAIN EXAMINATION: JUNE 2015**  
**COURSE & CODE:**  
**RESEARCH METHODS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, ENV5700W1**

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**DURATION: 3 HOURS**

**TOTAL MARKS: 300**

**Internal Examiner: Prof S Proches**

**External Examiner: Prof W Nel**

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**NOTE: THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF ONE PAGE.**

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**SECTION 1**

**Answer all the questions.**

- 1) Name and briefly elaborate on some of the main benefits and problems related to peer review process (25)
- 2) Explain how the impact factor of journals is calculated. Provide approximate values typical for high-impact and low impact journals (25)
- 3) Name some of the most popular online research networks, and point out some differences between them. (25)
- 4) Name and briefly compare some of the most popular university ranking systems. (25)

**SECTION 2**

**Answer two of the three questions below:**

- 5) Describe and critically analyse the main turning points in the development of modern quantitative and qualitative methods, with a focus on geography and environmental science. (100)
- 6) Write an essay discussing the role and structure of universities and the way in which geography and environmental science fit into university structure. To what extent do these two disciplines belong together, and to what extent is their coexistence dictated by university-level constraints? (100)
- 7) Produce a table with five environmental variables (some discrete, and some continuous) for five sites of your choice within the eThekweni Municipality. Explain how you would measure these variables, and how you would analyse the relationships between them. Provide examples where you would expect positive and negative relationships. (100)