

**UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL**  
**SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL, EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**  
**DISCIPLINE OF GEOGRAPHY**  
**EXAMINATION: JUNE 2013**  
**MODULE NAME & CODE: CONCEPTS AND METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY,**  
**GEOG700**

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**DURATION: 3 HOURS**

**TOTAL MARKS: 300**

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**INTERNAL EXAMINER: DR V MOODLEY**

**EXTERNAL EXAMINER: PROF S OLDFIELD, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**

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**INSTRUCTIONS: THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF TWO PAGES.**  
**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.**

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**SECTION A: CONCEPTS**

1. Environmental determinism, the doctrine that human activities are controlled by the environment, played an important role in influencing the development of geographical ideas at the turn of the twentieth century, and was often used to rationalize a colonial racist discourse. Critically assess this statement with reference to examples.
2. For much of the nineteenth and twentieth century history of the discipline, distinguished geographers attempted to defend or define the scientific status of geography. Evaluate the debate about the scientific method to geographical study in general, and to branches of physical and human geography in particular.
3. The development of a feminist approach to geographical enquiry has been concerned both with substantive research themes and also with institutional reconstruction of the discipline. Critically discuss with reference to examples.
4. 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). Critically discuss with reference to examples.

## **SECTION B: RESEARCH METHODS**

5. Discuss the relevance of qualitative research approaches in the discipline of geography and also analyse the advantages and disadvantages of the different types of qualitative techniques.
6. Geographers have not always been sensitive to ethical and moral issues in relation to research. Do you agree with this view? Critically discuss.
7. Although sampling saves time and money, there is always a trade-off between decreasing sample size to reduce effort and cost, and increasing sampling error. Discuss the different forms of probability and non-probability sampling, and their associated strengths and weaknesses.
8. David Harvey (1974: 18) poses the question on whether “geographers contribute successfully, meaningfully and effectively to the formation of public policy.” Critically assess the extent to which research conducted by geographers has influenced public policy, with reference to examples.