



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2020/2021 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

THIRD YEAR SPECIAL/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

BACHELOR OF ECONOMICS

ECO 300: RESEARCH METHODS

DATE: 25/3/2021

TIME: 2.00-4.00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS:

- (i) Answer question one (Compulsory) and any other two questions**
- (ii) Do not write on the question paper**
- (iii) Draw clear diagrams where necessary**

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

- a) Explain the relationship between a research problem, research objectives and the literature review (5 marks)
- b) Differentiate between unit of analysis and units of observations (4 marks)
- c) Discuss different types of variables using appropriate examples under precision and measurement (4 marks)
- d) Describe five methods of primary data collection (5 marks)
- e) Explain the relationship between research designs, sampling and data collection methods/instruments (5 marks)
- f) Explain five main factors that influence the response rate (5 marks)
- g) State sources of literature review. Give examples (2 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain any five characteristics of a good problem statement (5 marks)
- b) Discuss four types of research as classified by Patton (2002) (4 marks)
- c) Explain five main research designs (5 marks)
- d) State two sources of knowledge apart from research (2 marks)
- e) Discuss the two reasons for conducting pilot study. Give examples (4 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Discuss any two referencing methods within the text (4 marks)
- b) Explain how useful will the results of a study be, to different stakeholders. Consider at least three stakeholders (6 marks)
- c) Using a well labeled diagram, show the steps used in conducting research. Briefly state the main highlights of the first three chapters of a research proposal (10 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Questionnaire is a set of standard questions (question schedule) and these questions are asked systematically (structured) or some leeway (semi structured). Explain common rules of constructing a good questionnaire? (10 marks)
- b) Discuss the importance of conducting a review of the literature in the research process (10 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

You have been tasked to conduct research on a topic of current concern/interest in your field of study (e.g., Business, Economics, Education, etc.). Using your knowledge and understanding of research methods and methodology,

- a) Frame an appropriate topic for your research (2 marks)
- b) Develop three specific objectives and research questions for your study (6 marks)
- c) Illustrate your conceptual framework (indicating independent and dependent variables) (6 marks)
- d) Explain any two research designs that you would use for your research (6 marks)