



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2020/2021 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

MAY-AUGUST SESSION EXAMINATION FOR

MASTER OF ARTS (APPLIED LINGUISTICS)

AEN 510: LANGUAGE TESTING

DATE: 26/8/2021

TIME: 2.00-5.00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS:

- (i) Answer question ONE and any other TWO questions
- (ii) Do not write on the question paper

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY)

- a) With illustrations, distinguish between English Diagnostic and Placement tests (10 marks)
- b) Outline the strengths and weaknesses of multiple-choice tests in language evaluation. (10 marks)
- c) Explain the relevance of classroom research in language testing. (10 marks)

QUESTION TWO (15 MARKS)

With examples, clearly outline the main tenets of each of the following language testing approaches.

- a) Discrete point testing
- b) Communicative testing
- c) Performance based approach

QUESTION THREE (15 MARKS)

While showing its usefulness in language tests, clearly explain the notion of validity.

QUESTION FOUR (15 MARKS)

Clearly distinguish between norm referenced tests and criterion referenced tests

QUESTION FIVE (15 MARKS)

Explain the usefulness of the following statistical measures in English evaluation tests

- a) Pearson's rank correlation
- b) Standard deviation
- c) Mode