



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2020/2021 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

BACHELOR OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

BACHELOR OF ECONOMICS

ECO 300: RESEARCH METHODS.

DATE: 18/8/2021

TIME: 11.00-1.00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS:

- (i) This examination consists of Five questions.**
- (ii) Answer question one (Compulsory) and any other two questions.**
- (iii) Abide by all rules and regulations concerning this exam carefully.**
- (iv) Follow the guidelines on submission of exam script to the letter.**
- (v) Violating any of the rules is an exam irregularity and may lead to discontinuation from the University.**

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

a) Review the following statement and answer the questions that follow.

... Education is considered the foundation for socio-economic development in Kenya. The government promotes quality and equitable education for all citizens. In 2003, the government of Kenya introduced free primary education in order to increase access to basic education to its citizens. The government also supports the training of teachers, curriculum development and revision. Despite the above efforts, there is a wide gap in educational coverage between different counties as well as between boys and girls....

You want to research on the above mentioned information.

- i. Develop a relevant topic of study. (2 marks)
- ii. Formulate an appropriate statement of purpose for the study. (2 marks)
- iii. Identify any three possible research questions in the study. (3 marks)
- iv. State the corresponding research objectives. (3 marks)

- b) Evaluate reasons why primary researchers base their studies on samples. (10 marks)
- c) Explain the benefits of empirical literature review to a researcher. (10 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain the components of a research design. (5 marks)
- b) Expound on the importance of research gaps in literature. (5 marks)
- c) Discuss the steps in preparing a sampling design. (10 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain the important factors to consider when choosing a sampling design for primary research. (10 marks)
- b) Briefly explain five factors that should be taken into consideration by a researcher in selecting an appropriate method for data collection. (10 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Clearly distinguish between the following concepts as used in research:
 - i. Purposive sampling and stratified sampling. (2 marks)
 - ii. Pure research and applied research. (2 marks)
 - iii. Research question and research hypothesis. (2 marks)
 - iv. Cross-sectional research and Longitudinal research. (2 marks)
 - v. Independent variable and extraneous variable. (2 marks)
- b) During the last two decades, there has been a dramatic change in the business environment. The trend towards complexity has increased the risk associated with business decisions, making it more important to have a sound information base. In view of the above statement, discuss the role of research in today's organizations. (10 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain the factors one need to consider when selecting a research problem. (10 marks)
- b) Briefly explain five characteristics of scientific research. (5 marks)
- c) With examples differentiate between inferential approach and experimental approach to research. (5 marks)