MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2018/2019 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

SECOND YEAR SPECIAL/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ACU 202: METHODS AND TECHNIQUES IN SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

DATE: 25/9/2019   **TIME: 11.00-1.00 PM**

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer QUESTION ONE and any other TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE

a) You have been hired as a research assistant in undertaking research to determine the factors affecting effective performance of SMES in Kenya. As your first assignment you are required to prepare a research proposal for the assignment. Name and explain the contents of such a research proposal giving appropriate examples   (20 marks)

b) Differentiate between independent and dependent variables giving appropriate examples

     (4 marks)

c) Differentiate between primary and secondary data indicating how data is collected in each case   (6 marks)

QUESTION TWO

a) Research is a systematic inquiry to discover facts and generate new knowledge. It is an inquiry or a critical examination of a given phenomenon. In light with this statement, discuss the main purpose for which researchers undertake research   (12 marks)

b) A good research generates dependable data, being derived by practices that are conducted professionally and that can be used reliably for managerial decision making. In view of this statement, describe the main qualities of a good research.   (8 marks)

QUESTION THREE

a) the choice of a research topic is of great concern if a researcher wants to have an easy time in the research process. With this in mind, discuss the criteria that a researcher should follow when choosing a research topic (14 marks)

b) By use of examples, distinguish between qualitative and quantitative research (6 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

Data collection is a part of the research process. In reference to this,

a) Define sampling (2 marks)

b) Distinguish between a population and a sample (4 marks)

c) What are the main advantages of sampling in data collection process? (12 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

a) A research problem is an issue that is being investigated or where an inquiry is done to gather relevant information. Discuss the main ways of identifying a research problem (10 marks)

b) Interview sessions are common methods of collecting data for any research. Assess the main problems associated with interviews (10 marks)