



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2016/2017

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR DEGREE IN

BACHELOR OF ECONOMICS

UCO 300: RESEARCH METHODS

DATE: 2/6/2017

TIME: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer question ONE and any other two question

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY 30 MARKS)

- a) Using an hypothetical example of a good economics related topic explain how You formulate the research problem (10 marks)
- b) Distinguish between the following terms as used in research
 - i. Qualitative and quantitative research
 - ii. Distinguish between concepts and variables in research
 - iii. Null hypothesis and alternative hypothesis
 - iv. Distinguish between primary and secondary data (10 marks)
- c) Explain four types of two types of sampling techniques, while briefly explaining three examples of each sampling techniques as used in research process (10 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain the eight steps in the research process (10 marks)
- b) Explain the four important aspects to be covered in the content of statement of the problem (5 marks)
- c) Distinguish between main research objective and the specific objectives (5 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Using an hypothetical example of a good economic research problem, explain the meaning of conceptual framework while highlighting the meaning of independent and dependent variables and intervening variables. (12 marks)
- b) Describe the different methods of collecting primary data and Explain the merits and demerits of each method (8 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain the meaning and purpose of research design and also describe the four main components of research design (12 marks)
- b) Briefly explain the important points an individual should consider when choosing a topic for research (8 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) Describe the Types of research designs (10 marks)
- b) Describe the two types of literature to review for research purpose (5 marks)
- c) Explain the importance of overview of literature in the research process (5 marks)