



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2017/2018

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR
BACHELOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT)
BACHELOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (RESOURCE CONSERVATION)
ESU 304: RESEARCH METHODS

DATE: 5/12/2017

TIME: 8.30-10.30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer question ONE and any other TWO questions

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Explain the following terminologies
 - i. Research methods (2 marks)
 - ii. Applied research (2 marks)
- b) Explain the three main types of Questionnaires that can be used for data collection in a research study (6 marks)
- c) Discuss the key steps in content analysis process adopted to identify the main themes that emerge from the responses given by the respondents in an interview. (10 marks)
- d) Discuss the different types of measurement scales that can be used in a research study. (10 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Given a research project on the assessment of the effects of land use types on river sedimentation, discuss **ten** steps you would adopt in the research process (10 marks)
- b) Explain the role of literature review in a research process (10 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain how you will address the ethical issues relating to the participants and you as the researcher during your academic research project (10 marks)
- b) Discuss operations that can be undertaken in data processing to answer research questions in a study of your choice (10 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Discuss the importance of formulating a hypothesis for a research study (10 marks)
- b) Explain the factors that should be considered in determining a sample design (10 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Discuss the different sections that should be included in your academic research project report and the information that should be provided in each section (20 marks)