



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2018/2019 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

THIRD YEAR SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRI-BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND TRADE

ECO 300: RESEARCH METHODS

DATE: 26/7/2019

TIME: 11:00 – 1:00 pm

INSTRUCTIONS:

- i) Answer question one (Compulsory) and any other two questions**
- ii) Do not write on the question paper**
- iii) Show your working clearly**

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY)

(30 MARKS)

- a. Research is an exploration of new facts, careful observation, natural and social phenomenon and ascertaining the truth behind the observed phenomenon, tracing inter relationship, re-interpretation of an existing theory, developing new theories and testing old ones. Apart from research, explain any other three sources of knowledge (3 marks)
- b. Define theory and show how it is interlinked with research (3 marks)
- c. What do you understand by Unit of analysis in research? (2 marks)
- d. Briefly discuss different types of variables using appropriate examples under the following categories (8 marks)
 - i) Precision
 - ii) Measurement
 - iii) Time
 - iv) Equation or relationship

- e. State any five characteristics of a good problem statement (5 marks)
- f. Explain five methods of primary data collection (5 marks)
- g. What factors that influence the response rate (4 marks)

QUESTION TWO

- a. Discuss four types of research (4 marks)
- b. Highlight three levels of variable measurement used in research (3 marks)
- c. State and explain two data quality checks in primary research (4 marks)
- d. Using a hypothetical example with dependent, independent and moderating variable, do the following;
 - i) State the null and alternative hypothesis (2 marks)
 - ii) Draw a conceptual framework indicating the relationship between the variables (4 marks)
 - iii) Discuss the conceptual framework (ii) above (3 marks)

QUESTION THREE

- a. State any five characteristics of a good problem statement (5 marks)
- b. Differentiate between qualitative and quantitative research (2 marks)
- c. Discuss any five research designs applied in research (10 marks)
- d. State sources of literature review. Give examples (3 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- a. Discuss the importance of literature review in research process (10 marks)
- b. Why is census preferred compared to survey (2 marks)
- c. Using a well labeled diagram, show the steps used in conducting research (8 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- a. Questionnaire is a set of standard questions (question schedule) and these questions are asked systematically (structured) or some leeway (semi structured). Briefly discuss the rules of constructing a good questionnaire? (10 marks)
- b. Differentiate between probability and non-probability sampling criteria. Use examples (5 marks)
- c. Highlight five characteristics of a good enumerator (5 marks)