



**MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(MMUST)**

MAIN CAMPUS

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS
2021/2022 ACADEMIC YEAR
SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS**

COURSE CODE: BCS 222/ BIT 223

COURSE TITLE: RESEARCH METHODS & REPORT WRITING

DATE: Wednesday, 27th April, 2022

TIME: 12:00-2:00PM

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Answer Questions ONE and ANY OTHER TWO.

QUESTION ONE

- a. Differentiate between the following: [8 Marks]
- i. Research methodology and research methods
 - ii. Stratified sampling and area sampling
- b. What are the main issues that should receive the attention of the research in formulating a research problem? [7 Marks]
- c. What are the factors that one should consider when deciding on a data collection method to adopt for his study? [5 Marks]
- d. Explain the significance of a research report and narrate the various steps involved in writing such report [10 marks]

QUESTION TWO

- a. What do you understand by the term “research process”? With the aid of a diagram, describe exhaustively what the research process involves. [12 Marks]
- b. Briefly explain each of the following terms as they are applied in a research study (8 marks)
- i. Independent variable
 - ii. Dependent variable
 - iii. Moderating variable
 - iv. Mediating variable

QUESTION THREE

- a. Distinguish between primary, secondary and tertiary data sources as used in research work. [9 marks]
- b. You wish to undertake a research on how the city of Nairobi has changed over the years until present. Outline how you would undertake this research; identify the possible data sources, classify them as either primary, secondary or tertiary; how you would collect the data, and if secondary, give the source organization. [11 Marks]

QUESTION FOUR

- a. Explain the meaning and need of research design. [10 Marks]
- b. List the differences between research design in exploratory research studies and descriptive studies. [5 Marks]
- c. Explain the term hypothesis as applied in research and give an example of each of the two different types of hypothesis. (5 Marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- a. Define the following terms as they are applied a research study: [8 Marks]
- i. Ethnography
 - ii. Epistemology
 - iii. Phenomenology
 - iv. Ontology
- b. Identify the TWO research approaches and briefly describe each. [6 Marks]
- c. Discuss the term triangulation as applied in research and briefly explain how it is achieved. [6 Marks]