

240



*(University of Choice)*

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

**MAIN EXAMINATION**

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS  
2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**FOURTH YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS**

**FOR THE DEGREE  
OF  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ECONOMICS/ BACHELOR OF  
MATHEMATICS AND ECONOMICS**

**COURSE CODE: ECO 402**

**COURSE TITLE: RESEARCH METHODS**

**DATE: FRIDAY, 15-12-2023**

**TIME: 8:00 -10:00AM**

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

**ATTEMPT QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER TWO**

**TIME: 2 Hours**

**MMUST observes ZERO tolerance to examination cheating**

*This Paper Consists of 2 Printed Pages. Please Turn Over.*

**QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY)**

- a). Define research and examine SIX main purposes of conducting research. (14 marks)
- b). Discuss any FIVE ways of identifying a research problem. (10 marks)
- c). Explain the differences between qualitative and quantitative research (6 marks)

### **QUESTION TWO**

- a) Examine the characteristics of a good research hypothesis. (6 marks)
- b) In Kenya, education is considered the foundation for socio-economic development. To promote quality and equitable education for all citizens, building of more schools, training of teachers and curriculum development and revision is required. Despite the above efforts, there is a wide gap in educational coverage between urban and rural areas emanating from family socio-demographic factors. You have been hired to conduct a study and advice on educational differential as outlined above.
  - i. Formulate the research topic (3 marks)
  - ii. Identify the dependent and independent variables for this study. (2 marks)
  - iii. State any THREE specific objectives that would guide the study (3 mark)
- iv. Formulate any THREE research hypotheses that will guide the study(3 marks)
- v. Which instruments of data collection will you use to conduct the research? (3 marks)

### **QUESTION THREE**

- a) Distinguish between a Project and a Research proposal (4 marks)
- b) What do you understand by a conceptual framework and as a researcher when developing the framework what are you required to do. (6 marks)
- c) Distinguish between theoretical and empirical literature review?(4 marks)
- d) Examine the cluster and stratified sampling methods as used in research. (6 marks)

### **QUESTION FOUR**

- a) Define a research design and explain any THREE research designs that may be appropriate in conducting a social research. (8 marks)
- b) Identify and explain three ethical considerations when choosing a research topic. (6 marks)
- c) Explain why sampling is preferred to complete enumeration. (6 marks)

### **QUESTION FIVE**

- a) Data analysis section helps in understanding how collected data will be analyzed in any given research. Discuss any two inferential and two descriptive data analysis techniques. (8 marks)
- b) Explain the factors that one should consider when determining sample size. (6 marks)
- c) Examine the various sources for literature review. (6 marks)