



(University of Choice)

**MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
MAIN EXAMINATION**

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS
2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS
FOR THE DEGREE
OF**

MASTER OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND OUTREACH

COURSE CODE: AED 801

**COURSE TITLE: RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL
SCIENCES**

DATE: 6TH DECEMBER, 2023

TIME: 8-11 AM

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS

TIME: 3 HOURS

MMUST observes ZERO tolerance to examination cheating

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

QUESTION ONE

- a) Critically assess the primary ethical considerations prevalent in the realm of Educational and agricultural Research. (7marks)
- b) While researchers in the field of agriculture often gravitate toward the utilization of mixed methods in their research endeavors, it remains evident that the predominant paradigms continue to be qualitative and quantitative. Analyze and juxtapose these two prevalent paradigms to illuminate their differences and similarities. (8 marks)

QUESTION TWO

- a) Assess the impact of research on the agricultural sector within the context of Kenya. (7 marks)
- b) You have been tasked with conducting a research study to investigate the perspectives of primary stakeholders regarding the engagement of the community in investigating the relationship between climate change and household food security in Kenya. Describe your approach to sampling the designated target populations for this research. (8 marks)

QUESTION THREE

Using a study of your choice, analyze the following concepts and expressions:

- a) Research problem (3 marks)
- b) Research hypothesis (3 marks)
- c) Conceptual framework (3 marks)
- d) Research objectives (3 marks)
- e) Theoretical framework (3 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- a) A researcher is considering the utilization of cross-sectional survey and phenomenological research designs in her investigation the role of agriculture extension officers in the implementation of modern agricultural practices for small scale farmers. Evaluate the distinctions and similarities between these two methodological approaches. (7 marks)
- b) What strategies do qualitative researchers employ to ensure the rigor and trustworthiness of their findings in qualitative research inquiries? (8 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- a) A critical examination of the existing literature is pivotal for identifying a research issue within a study. What are the obstacles encountered by researchers when crafting a robust literature review? (7 marks)
- b) Using a study of your choice, rationalize the significance of the researcher's role and the utilization of the human instrument in qualitative research. (4 marks)
- c) What strategies can be employed to ensure the credibility of qualitative research? (8 marks)

QUESTION SIX

As the Principal Investigator (PI), it is imperative that prior to fieldwork, researchers formulate comprehensive research proposals to provide a structured framework for their investigations. In this capacity, you are assigned the responsibility of formulating a research proposal addressing issues of climate change in Kenya. Construct a research plan to examine your research query, encompassing the core elements of the topic, including but not limited to research objectives, significance, research design, the target population, sampling methodologies, data collection instruments, and ethical considerations. (15 marks)