



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2022/2023
SUPPLEMENTARY/SPECIAL EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF
ARTS

AMC 800: RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

JULY/AUGUST 2023

TIME: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS :

Question One (Compulsory) - 30 Marks

Read the case study below, and answer the questions that follow.

The challenging scenario of devolution in Kenya was touted as a solution to development inequalities in Kenya. The citizens believed every aspect of the Constitution that the creation of the County Government would bring services closer to them, enhance access to County leaders and ultimately achieve development at a faster rate. The performance of these Counties has recently become a pet subject for every Kenyan. It has been close to 8 months since, but tangible results are not evident with blame game between National and County Governments and institutions thereof souring by the day. County Governments have not established its foot in revenue collection, legislative agenda is yet to take root with the County Assemblies having been grounded by the pull and push for higher pay by the members, minimal capacity of the MCAs to legislate and debate Bills with the residents developing apathy over the time towards their Counties. The Ministry of Devolution is concerned with this and has instituted a research in which you are the lead person.

- a) Suggest a possible and most appropriate title that this research can take (2 marks)
- b) Write down an appropriate statement of the problem (4 marks)
- c) Outline any **FOUR** specific objectives that the study will take (4 marks)
- d) Provide **FOUR** research questions that the study will seek to answer (2 marks)
- e) Draw a schematic diagram of a conceptual framework that the research will adopt as it seeks to address the outlined objectives in (c) above (4 marks)
- f) Choose an appropriate research design that the study will adopt and explain why you choose the design. (3 marks)

- g) Outline the sampling design that the study will adopt and explain the reasons why such a sampling design was taken (4 marks)
- h) What would be the most appropriate data analysis technique that can be employed for this study? Why do you think so? (4 marks)
- i) What would be the most likely limitations of this study? Outline the delimitations that you would put in place (3 marks)

Question Two (15 Marks)

- a. Distinguish between simple random sampling and convenience sampling? (6 marks)
- b. Why are ethical standards important in research (5 marks)
- c. Explain how snowballing is used to select a sample (4 marks)

Question Three (15 Marks)

- a) Using elaborate examples, explain why secondary and primary data differ. Why would you prefer primary data to the secondary data? (10 marks)
- b) Highlight the difference between descriptive research from exploratory research (5 marks)

Question Four (15 Marks)

- a) Distinguish between reliability and validity as used in research (5 marks)
- b) Data analysis places a critical role between the researcher and the readers. Explain the role analysis and the techniques used to do it. (4 marks)
- c) Outline any **SIX** reasons for reviewing literature in research. (6 marks)