



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2017/2018

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION (PROJECT MANAGEMENT)

BMS 867: IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN PROJECTS

DATE: Friday 1st December, 2017

TIME: 5.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question ONE and any other THREE questions

QUESTION ONE.

An impact assessment aims to create a valid control group, whereas a project evaluation does not. In contrast to other forms of project evaluation, which focus on outputs and outcomes (the left-hand side of the causal chain), impact assessment focuses on outcomes and impacts (the right-hand side of the causal chain), and utilizes more sophisticated data collection methods and instruments. (40 Marks)

Required:

- (a) Identify and briefly discuss at least three challenges to be encountered while performing an impact assessment (6 Marks)
- (b) Outline and briefly discuss three complementary objectives that impact assessment serves (6 Marks)
- (c) Outline and briefly discuss three internal and seven external questions that need to be raised in order to consider the full extent of impact in a project (10 Marks)
- (d) Outline and briefly explain six activities involved in an environmental impact assessment (6 Marks)
- (e) Outline and briefly discuss six units of assessment and clearly explain their advantages and disadvantages (12 Marks)

QUESTION TWO.

The key task for the Impact Assessment designer is to select an approach that can meet the objectives of the specific assessment at an acceptable level of rigor, that is compatible with the program's context, that is feasible in terms of costs, timing and human resource availability and that avoids the problems identified in earlier stages. Wherever possible an impact assessment methodology should be piloted before full implementation. (20 Marks)

Required:

- (a) While giving examples, briefly outline at least five questions that an effective impact assessment approaches would seek to answer (10 Marks)
- (b) Outline and briefly discuss at least four approaches that can be used to address the questions in (a) above (10 Marks)

QUESTION THREE.

In recent years impact assessment has become an increasingly important aspect of development activity as agencies, and particularly aid donors, have sought to ensure that funds are well spent.

(20 Marks) Required:

- a) Outline and briefly discuss at least five factors that should be considered in the practice of microfinance impact assessment (10 Marks)
- b) List and briefly explain at least five advantages of carrying out impact assessment in projects and programmes (10 Marks)

QUESTION FOUR.

At the heart of impact assessment is the attribution of specific effects (i.e., impacts) to specific causes (i.e., interventions). (20 Marks)

Required:

- a) Outline and briefly explain three common impact assessment methods (3 Marks)
- b) Outline and briefly discuss three different paradigms which can be used to demonstrate attribution in impact assessment (9 Marks)
- c) Identify and briefly explain four reasons why selection bias may occur in the process of impact assessment (8 Marks)

QUESTION FIVE.

Conducting a good impact assessment of a value chain project should involve certain acceptable stages that assume two research rounds (a baseline and follow-up) (20 Marks)

Required:

- a) Outline and clearly discuss the steps that should be taken in the impact assessment implementation process from the beginning to the end (10 Marks)
- b) Outline and briefly discuss at least five common impact assessment methods (10 Marks)
