



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2017/2018
CITY CAMPUS

**FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF
ECONOMICS**

ECO 300: RESEARCH METHODS

DATE: MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2018

TIME: 11.00 A.M. - 1.00 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer question ONE (compulsory) and any other TWO questions. Question one carries 30 marks and the rest carry 20 marks each.

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Briefly explain four qualities of a good research. (8 marks)
- b) Distinguish between active variables and attribute variables as used in research. (4 marks)
- c) Explain three main characteristics of a good hypothesis. (6 marks)
- d) State and explain any four types of non-probability sampling. (8 marks)
- e) The case study method is a very popular form of qualitative analysis and involves a careful and complete observation of a social unit. Briefly explain four main phases involved in a case study. (4 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Establishing the goodness of data lends credibility to all subsequent analyses and findings. Hence, getting a feel for the data becomes the necessary first step in all data analysis. Based on this initial feel, further detailed analyses may be done to test the goodness of the data. Clearly explain how the reliability and validity of the measures can be tested. (12 marks)
- b) Not all respondents answer every item in the questionnaire. Answers may have been left blank because the respondent did not understand the question, did not know the answer, was not willing to answer, or was simply indifferent. Briefly explain the best way to handle blank responses in a questionnaire. (8 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) State and explain the main steps that are involved in the formulation of a research problem. (12 marks)
- b) Formulating a research problem requires considerable preliminary work, knowledge, and a logical analysis of the problem. State and explain any four sources of research problems widely used in academic research. (8 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Briefly Explain the differences between the following concepts as used in research methods for an academic research. (20 marks)

- i) Simulation approach and Inferential approach.
- ii) Theoretical literature and empirical literature.
- iii) Polytomous variable and continuous variable.
- iv) Null hypothesis and alternative hypothesis.
- v) Statistical design and operational design.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) Observation is a scientific tool and the method of data collection when it serves a formulated research purpose. It is systematically planned and recorded and is subjected to checks and controls on validity and reliability. State and explain five types of observation. (10 marks)
- b) State and explain five characteristics of a good literature review. (10 marks)
