



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2008/2009

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF LAW

LPR 102: LEGAL RESEARCH AND METHODS

DATE: Friday, 15th August, 2008

TIME: 9.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please answer **THREE** questions. Question **ONE** is Compulsory. This examination carries 70% of the marks in this course. Question **ONE** carries 30 marks while the others carry 20 marks each. Write legibly and neatly.

1. Organize a two-page overview of a study you would like to conduct in your community. You may select your preferred choice of method or specific approach. In your summary, include:
 - a) The problem you plan to study
 - b) The major research question you plan to ask
 - c) The hypothesis you wish to formulate
 - d) The data you wish to collect and analyze
 - e) The significance of your study, and
 - f) Your relationship to the topic and participants being studied

(30 marks)
2. Underneath any given research design and choice of methods of inquiry lies a

- researcher's (often implicit) understanding of the nature of the world, and how it should be studied. These underlying priors and/ or assumptions provide researchers with the philosophical ballast that is necessary to address important questions concerning the nature of knowledge, reality, truth, certainty and objectivity in any given project. Discuss. (20 marks)
3. The common law tradition boasts of time-proven safeguards to ensure that in interpreting legislation, courts are guided by a common standard. Evaluate the celebrated principles of interpretation of legislation. (20 marks)
4. Looking for the law has certainly become easier in the 21st Century. The tools now available to the legal researcher in Kenya are numerous and easily accessible. We should therefore expect to see superior legal opinions, research and submissions than was possible in the past. Discuss. (20 marks)
5. 'In addition to conceptualizing the writing process for a proposal, researchers need to anticipate the ethical issues that may arise during their studies. A researcher must always incorporate good practices in the research proposal'. Discuss this statement in the context of the entire design and execution of the research project. (20 marks)