



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2010/2011

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF
PHILOSOPHY

PSY/PHD/803: RESEARCH METHODS

DATE: FRIDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER 2010

TIME: 9.00 A.M. - 12.00 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER 2 QUESTIONS.

QUESTION ONE - (30 marks)

a) Differentiate between the following concepts as used in research using relevant examples or illustrations:

- i) Descriptive statistics and descriptive research
- ii) Participant observation and non-participant observation
- iii) Inductive and deductive reasoning
- iv) Pretest and pilot study
- v) Random assignment and random sampling

(10 marks)

b) Discuss the differences and similarities between the following:

- i) Cross sectional surveys and longitudinal surveys.
- ii) Stratified sampling and quota sampling
- iii) Correlational and causal comparative designs
- iv) Interviews and focused group discussions
- v) True experiments and quasi experiments

(10 marks)

- c) Describe 4 characteristics of a good hypothesis (3 marks)
- d) Differentiate between the null and alternative hypothesis. (3 marks)
- e) What role does each type of hypothesis stated in (c) play in a scientific research? (2 marks)
- f) Differentiate between types I and II errors in hypotheses testing. (2 marks)

QUESTION TWO - (10 marks)

Select any **two** research designs appropriate in qualitative studies designed to study “factors contributing to the increased violence in the country”

- i) Describe each method explicitly.
- ii) In your discussion describe the population, sampling techniques and the research instruments for collecting data.
- iii) How will you strive to enhance the validity of the study?

QUESTION THREE - (10 marks)

Assuming that you have been asked to carry out an experiment whose purpose is “To find out the effects of induced anxiety on academic achievement.” Indicate how you would go about doing this. In your discussion make sure you specify the following:

- i) Independent and dependent variables;
- ii) Operational definitions of induced anxiety and academic achievement;
- iii) The alternative and null hypotheses;
- iv) One possible interaction effect;
- v) One possible serendipity;
- vi) An appropriate statistical test to be used in the analysis of the obtained data;
- vii) Degree of the internal and external validity of the obtained results.

QUESTION FOUR - (10 marks)

- a) Discuss the relationship between the following two terms: Internal and external validity of research designs. In your discussion use experimental and surveys or any other design to clarify these concepts. (4 marks)
- b) Name and explain any three potential threats to internal validity and any three to external validity of a study that a researcher has to guard against. (6 marks)

QUESTION FIVE - (10 marks)

- a) Compare and contrast qualitative and quantitative researches. (4 marks)
- b) Critical researchers have argued against experimental research designs. Discuss briefly against and for their views. (6 marks)
