



**KENYATTA UNIVERSITY**

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2014/2015**

**DIGITAL SCHOOL OF VIRTUAL AND OPEN LEARNING**

**SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF SCIENCE (AGRONOMY, PLANT BREEDING, PATHOLOGY, SEED  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)**

**KCU 801: RESEARCH METHODS**

**DATE: SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2015**

**TIME: 9.00 A.M. – 12.00 P.M.**

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**INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND ANY THREE OTHER  
QUESTIONS**

1. a) Distinguish between the following:
  - i. **Action** research and **Evaluation** research. [2 marks]
  - ii. Naturalistic observation and Simulation Observation. [2 marks]
  - iii. Case study and content analysis. [2 marks]
  - iv. Deductive and inductive research. [2 marks]
  - v. Statistical hypothesis and research hypothesis. [2 marks]
- b) With examples, explain meaning of correlation research process. [2 marks]
- c) State three types referencing styles. [3 marks]
- d) Explain disadvantages of searching for literature from the World Wide Web (WWW). [5 marks]
- e) Give four important reasons for replicating an experiment. [4 marks]
- f) Briefly discuss characteristics of cross sectional survey. [6 marks]

2. Discuss qualitative approaches that may be used in research. [10 marks]
3. a) What is the difference between a sample and population? [2 marks]  
b) Discuss factors that a researcher may consider in deciding on the sample size. [8 marks]
4. a) Explain five (5) characteristics of a good research problem. [5 marks]  
b) State characteristics of effective objectives. [5 marks]
5. a) State structure of a scientific paper. [1 mark]  
b) Discuss key elements in the Background section. [4 marks]  
c) Discuss key elements in the Discussion section. [5 marks]