



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2018/2019

DIGITAL SCHOOL OF VIRTUAL AND OPEN LEARNING

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

AMC 800: RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

DATE: Friday, 21st December 2018

TIME: 9.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer question ONE and any other TWO questions.

Question One (30 marks)

Read the research scenario proposed and answer the questions that follow.

Rural women make up the majority of Kenya's agricultural labour force. They ensure food security for their communities and build resilience in response to challenges associated with climate change. Thus, they play a crucial role in ensuring the sustainability of rural households and whole communities, and improve rural households and whole communities, and improve rural livelihoods and overall well-being. This calls for research to address basic questions such: who owns what? Who gets what? Who does what? How is it done? What is done with it?

- (a) Propose an appropriate title for the research. (3 marks)
- (b) State four suitable objectives together with their premises/hypotheses for the study. (8 marks)
- (c) Discuss the concept of:
 - (i) Independent variables (3 marks)
 - (ii) Dependent variables (3 marks)
- (d) Identify and justify an appropriate research design for the study. (3 marks)
- (e) Formulate a statement of the problem for the research. (6 marks)
- (f) Discuss the significance of ethical considerations in research. (4 marks)

Question Two

- (a) Discuss the significance of literature review in research. (10 marks)
- (b) Explain the role of the 'theoretical framework' when conducting a study. (10 marks)

Question Three

- (a) Discuss the qualitative research type in social sciences. (8 marks)
- (b) How are the challenges of validity and reliability addressed in research? (12 marks)

Question Four

- (a) Articulate the following aspects on research resources:
 - (i) Primary sources (3 marks)
 - (ii) Secondary sources (3 marks)
 - (iii) Researcher's dialogue with the sources. (4 marks)
- (b) With relevant examples, distinguish between probability and non-probability sampling. (10 marks)

Question Five

- (a) Discuss the importance of 'pilot survey' in social science research. (5 marks)
- (b) Explain the features of the following instruments during data collection.
 - (i) Questionnaire (5 marks)
 - (ii) Interview schedule (5 marks)
 - (iii) Tape-recorder (5 marks)