



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2009/2010

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT)

ECD 302: PRINCIPLES OF RESEARCH METHODS

DATE: THURSDAY, 8TH APRIL 2010

TIME: 8.00 A.M. - 10.00 A.M.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer Question ONE (compulsory) and any other TWO questions.

Use well labelled illustrations and diagrams where necessary.

1. a. How do researchers decide on the size of sample to use? Give relevant examples. (5 marks)
- b) Briefly describe the two basic approaches to sampling. (4 marks)
- c) Suppose you had a huge list of people, places, or things to select from, like 500,000 people or more, how would you go about sampling? (6 marks)
- d) A researcher compiled the following reference list in a scientific write up. Identify **ALL** the mistake made according to the Havard Style . (15 marks)

2. Describe the various types of research designs giving their merits and limitations
(20 marks)
3. Discuss the potential usefulness, sources and limitations of using secondary data for research in the Kenyan water sector.
(20 marks)
4. a) Describe the following sampling methods:
i. Snowball sampling
ii. Cluster random sampling
iii. Purposive sampling
iv. Convenience sampling
v. Systematic random sampling
vi. Stratified random sampling
vii. Quota sampling
viii. Simple random sampling
(16 marks)
- b) How is the logic of validity and sampling error related?
(4 marks)
5. You are conducting qualitative research among the pastoralist communities of Kenya. Describe the threats to reliability and validity in your research, and identify three ways in which you would ensure reliability and validity
(20 marks)
