



Moderated
22-01-2020

KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2019/2020

SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF
ECONOMICS/ECONOMETRICS/FINANCE

ECO 300: RESEARCH METHODS

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer question ONE, and any other TWO questions. Question One carries 30 Marks and all other questions carry 20 Marks each.

QUESTION ONE.(COMPULSORY)

- a) Read the following except carefully obtained from an education researcher in Kenya and answer the questions that follow.

Kenya has been trying to achieve the goal of universal education since independence in 1963, with mixed successes. The introduction of free tuition in secondary schools was aimed at providing the economically disadvantaged with an opportunity to benefit from government sponsored education provision. However, challenges arising from the pressure placed upon available finances have been steadily growing. Given the new measures that government is undertaking to address issues of access and quality of education in recent years, it is worth examining the influence of costs on students' performance as a way of seeking solutions to the long-standing challenge of education quality in Kenyan schools. Two years away from the deadline, the promise of Education for All (EFA) is still a challenge that stands out among the disadvantaged poor populations who cannot finance their own education. This study sought to investigate the relationship between unit cost and students' academic performance in secondary schools in Bungoma County. Descriptive survey research design was used. Stratified random sampling was used to select eighty class teachers in twenty schools who served as respondents, and gave feedback through structured questionnaires.

- i) Describe the problem being investigated in the study (4 marks)
- ii) Suggest a suitable topic for the study (1 marks) (1 mark)
- iii) Identify two objectives for this study (2 Marks)
- iv) Identify the most appropriate data collection method for this study. (2 Marks) Justify your choice.
- v) Explain the demerits associated with the data collection method identified above (6 Marks)
- b) Proper formulation of a research problem is very critical in research. State and explain five main factors to consider when formulating a research problem (10 marks)

- c) What are the important considerations that a researcher should keep in mind when constructing a hypothesis? (5 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Theoretical Literature review involves reviewing the existing theories in the area of interest. *in relation to the statement* Discuss any five main functions of a theory in a research (10 marks) *or UNCERTAIN*
- b) State and explain whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE (10 marks)
- i) Purposive sampling is generally probabilistic in nature
 - ii) All count variables are continuous variables
 - iii) An independent variable is the cause supposed to be responsible for bringing about change in a phenomenon
 - iv) The null hypothesis is the hypothesis of difference
 - v) Attribute variables can be manipulated, changed or controlled by the researcher.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) The case study method is a very popular form of qualitative analysis and involves a careful and complete observation of a social unit, be that unit a person, a family, an institution, a cultural group or even the entire community. Explain five main characteristics of the case study method (10 marks)
- b) Discuss any five steps involved in sampling design (10 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Briefly explain the term participant observation as used in research and state its advantages and disadvantages (10 marks)
- b) Discuss any five reasons why sampling is necessary in research (10 marks)

@ Does it matter if a variable is measured as ordinal, nominal, ratio or interval? Discuss (10 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) State and explain five main factors that should be considered when selecting a data collection method (10 marks)
- b) What is the meaning of "triangulation" in research and why is it important? (4 Marks)
- c) Identify and explain the three approaches of quantitative research approach. (6 Marks)

@ Discuss the concepts of validity and reliability as used in research (10 marks)