



**MASEÑO UNIVERSITY**  
**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2013/2014**

**FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE  
DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN PROJECT PLANNING &  
MANAGEMENT**

**(HOMA BAY CAMPUS)**

**PPM 814: RESEARCH METHODS**

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2014

Time: 2.00 - 5.00 p.m.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Answer ANY FOUR questions.

**PPM 814: RESEARCH METHODS (HOMABAY CAMPUS)**

**Answer any four questions**

1. "Research is a systematic inquiry to discover new knowledge"
  - a) What is the role of knowledge in societal development? (7.5 marks)
  - b) Describe the various sources of knowledge? (7.5 marks)
2. "Scientific Theory asserts that knowledge exists a priori and therefore 'phenomena can be explained and can be manipulated'.
  - a) Explain the theoretical basis that knowledge exists 'a priori'? (5 marks)
  - b) How does the theoretical basis referred to above aid in formulating a research problem? (5 marks)
  - c) What is the role and relationship between an independent variable and a dependent variable? (5 marks)
3. The department of urban and regional Planning has asked you to formulate a research problem to enable you undertake a research for your M.A thesis.
  - a) What is a research problem? (5 marks)
  - b) Describe various sources of a research problem (5 marks)
  - c) What are the characteristics of a good research problem? (5 marks)
4. Briefly discuss the steps of undertaking a research process (15 marks)
5. Explain briefly the role of literature review in a research process (15 marks).
6. Discuss the use of any three of the following terms in a research process:
  - (a) conceptual framework (5 marks)
  - (b) Sample (5 marks)
  - (c) Research design (5 marks)
  - (d) Hypothesis (6 marks)