



MASENO UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2016/2017

**FOURTH YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE
OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (MATHEMATICS AND
ECONOMICS & BACHELOR OF ARTS (ECONOMICS) WITH
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

MAIN & CITY CAMPUSES

AEC 404: RESEARCH METHODS

Date: 30th November, 2016

Time: 12.00 - 3.00pm

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Answer Question ONE and any other THREE.



QUESTION ONE

Economic Memorandum: Kenya's Growth Story: Past, Present and Future

The 2016 Kenya Country Economic Memorandum (CEM): "From Economic Growth to Jobs and Shared Prosperity, takes a bird's-eye view of Kenya's economy, zooms in on some of the key bottlenecks, and proposes some "how-to" ideas.

Between 2006 and 2013, 72% of the increase in gross domestic product (GDP) came from services, the report notes. Expansion in services such as financial intermediation and mobile communications have also stimulated demand for other services, such as trade, according to the report.

The report also shows that agriculture, the mainstay of Kenya's economy, and manufacturing have stagnated and have not created enough jobs for Kenya's growing working age population. Most of the jobs are created by the informal economy and are concentrated in low-productivity areas such as trade, hospitality, and *jua kali*, entrepreneurs who can be hired to do just about any task.

"Improving the ease of doing business is vital for job creation and higher productivity. However, there is still a need for creating job opportunities for the rural poor, for poverty reduction and achieving shared prosperity," said Apurva Sanghi, World Bank lead economist and program leader for Kenya. "Reviving agriculture, in particular, remains the pathway for poverty reduction."

According to the report, accelerating growth to meet Kenya's development goals requires technological advances and innovation that raise firms' productivity, as only a few Kenyan firms have come up with products that are actually new to the domestic market. It will also require macroeconomic stability to boost investment and savings, the report adds. As the government strives to build its energy and transport infrastructure, the report recommends improvements in the public investment management process and better execution.

The report also highlights the recent discovery of oil as an opportunity for raising Kenya's growth. If used prudently, it can contribute to achieving the country's Vision 2030 goals, and with appropriate management of resource revenues, it can generate resources that could be used to raise public investment, human capital, and productivity in the non-resource sectors of the economy.

The Country Economic Memorandum is a strategic World Bank product that analyzes key aspects of the country's economic development, with the main aim of providing an integrated and long-term perspective of the country's development priorities.

- i) Use the information provided above to undertake the following:
 - a) Identify an appropriate research topic for the above problem(s). (4 marks)
 - b) Provide the statement of your problem (4 marks)
 - c) Construct two research objectives suitable for the study. (6 marks)
 - d) Construct two research hypotheses that would facilitate comprehensive investigation of the problem. (6 marks)
- ii) Briefly explain the qualities of a good research topic. (5 marks)

QUESTION TWO

A study is proposed to analyze the quality of life among over 10,000 students of Maseno university. Sampling is to be employed to identify respondents and you have been approached to advise on how respondents should be selected for this study. Prepare a description on how the sampling process should proceed clearly explaining an appropriate procedure and the determination of number of students to be considered. (15 marks)

QUESTION THREE

Distinguish between the following terms as used in research

- a) Theoretical review and empirical review (3 marks)
- b) Theoretical framework and conceptual framework (3 marks)
- c) Null hypothesis and alternative hypothesis (3 marks)
- d) Reliability and Validity of Research Instrument (3 marks)
- e) Research question and Research hypothesis (3 Marks)

QUESTION FOUR

Discuss the importance of literature review in research (15 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- a) Identify and explain three types of research (5 marks)
- b) Give reasons for conducting research (5 marks)

- c) Discuss the qualities of good research (5 marks)
- d) Explain ethical issues to be observed in research (5 marks)

QUESTION SIX

Explain the procedure of testing research hypotheses (10 marks)