



MASENO UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2014/2015

FOURTH YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

CITY CAMPUS/MAIN CAMPUS SUPPLEMENTARY

AEC 404: RESEARCH METHODS

Date: 13th November, 2015

Time: 11.00 - 1.00 pm

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Answer question ONE and any other TWO questions.
- Question ONE carries 30 marks.
- The rest of the questions carry 20 marks each



QUESTION ONE

- (a). Selecting a topic in research is essential and requires a lot of care. This is because the topic selected has a lot of influence on the success of the study. In light of this statement, explain the qualities of an effective research topic. (10marks)
- (b). Discuss the challenges encountered in research topic selection and explain the measures that a researcher may take to address them. (10marks)
- (c). Discuss the qualities of an effective research thesis as opined by Phillips and Pugh (1994). (10marks)

QUESTION TWO

- (a). Explain the meaning of the term “background” as used in research. (5marks)
- (b). Explain the role played by background information in research. (5marks)
- (c). Explain the qualities of an effective background to a study. (5marks)
- (d). Highlight the essential steps in writing an effective background. (5marks)

QUESTION THREE

- (a). The first step in the research development process is the problem identification and definition. Identify the two forms that a research problem may take. (4marks)
- (b). Explain the critical steps in locating research problem for investigation. (6marks)
- (c). Discuss the qualities of an effective research problem. (7marks)
- (d). Identify and explain any three challenges faced in articulating the research problem. (3marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- (a). Explain the difference between “a theoretical framework” and “ a theory” as used in research. (4marks)
- (b). Explain the role played by a theoretical frame work in research. (6marks)
- (c). Highlight any six qualities of an effective theoretical frame work. (6marks)
- (d). state and explain the strategies used designing an effective conceptual frame work. (4marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- (a).Distinguish between literature and literature review. (4marks)
- (b).Explain the reasons for conducting literature review in research. (6marks)
- (c). Discuss the qualities of an effective literature review. (7marks)
- (d). Explain how you would conduct an effective literature review. (3marks)