EGERTON UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

NJORO CAMPUS
SECOND SEMESTER 2011/2012

FOURTH YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING AND BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

AGEN 462: RESEARCH METHODS

STREAM: 2008 (Y4) AGEN/WEEN   **TIME:** 2 hours

DAY/TIME: Wednesday, 03.00 – 05.00 pm   **DATE:** 09/05/2012

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. The paper consists of **FOUR (4)** questions.
2. Answer **ALL** questions.
3. All questions carry equal marks.
4. Marks for each question are shown in parenthesis ( )
5. Use clear and well-labeled diagrams/illustrations where necessary
6. **EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE STARTED ON A NEW PAGE.**

QUESTION ONE

(a) Describe the following terminologies as used in a research process:

   (i)   Research.

   (ii)   Population.

   (iii)   Data.

   (iv)   Hypothesis.   **(12 marks)**

(b) Why must review of literature of a research problem be done intensively, extensively, thoroughly and with a lot of diligence?   **(13 marks)**

QUESTION TWO

(a) Briefly discuss the various sources of literature material in a research process.

(18 marks)

(b) A wheat flour packager is concerned that one of their machines has a mean fill per package of more than 2000 g which is the labeled net weight. While this will not raise any complaints from the customers, it could cost the company a lot of money. From past experience, the standard deviation of the package fill is about 21 g. Using $\alpha = 0.05$, determine the sample size to make $\beta \leq 0.01$ when the actual mean is 2008 gm:

    (i)   For one-tailed hypothesis testing, and

    (ii)   For two-tailed testing   **(7 marks)**

QUESTION THREE

(a) With the aid of a simple diagram, describe the generalized research process outlining its cyclic nature and the inter-relationship of the various stages with theory.   **(15 marks)**

(b) Giving examples, briefly explain the **FIVE** recognized sources of knowledge.

(10 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

(a) Distinguish between the following terms as used in research:

    (i)   Conceptual research and Analytical research

    (ii)   Descriptive research and Fundamental research

    (iii)   Probability sampling and Non-probability sampling

    (iv)   Accessible population and Target population.   **(8 marks)**

(b) A population in a study comprised of three strata such that:

    $N_1 = 8,000$, $N_2 = 3,000$ and $N_3 = 4,000$ and the respective standard deviations are: $\sigma_1 = 18$, $\sigma_2 = 25$ and $\sigma_3 = 9$.

    (i)   How should a sample size of 120 be optimally allocated to the three strata using disproportionate sampling design?

    (ii)   If the respective costs of sampling in Kenyan shillings were $C_1 = 10,000$, $C_2 = 6,000$ and $C_3 = 9,000$, what would be the respective strata allocation?

(17 marks)

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Table 1: Statistical Tables

Appendix

Table 2: Critical Values of Student's t-Distribution

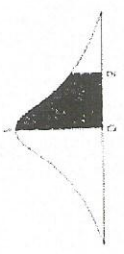|	Level of significance for two-tailed test					
	0.20	0.10	0.05	0.02	0.01	
	Level of significance for one-tailed test					d.f.
d.f.	0.10	0.05	0.025	0.01	0.005	
1	3.078	6.314	12.706	31.821	63.657	1
2	1.886	2.920	4.303	6.965	9.925	2
3	1.638	2.353	3.182	4.541	5.841	3
4	1.533	2.132	2.776	3.747	4.604	4
5	1.476	2.015	2.571	3.365	4.032	5
6	1.440	1.943	2.447	3.143	3.707	6
7	1.415	1.895	2.365	2.998	3.499	7
8	1.397	1.860	2.306	2.896	3.355	8
9	1.383	1.833	2.262	2.821	3.250	9
10	1.372	1.812	2.228	2.764	3.169	10
11	1.363	1.796	2.201	2.718	3.106	11
12	1.356	1.782	2.179	2.681	3.055	12
13	1.350	1.771	2.160	2.650	3.012	13
14	1.345	1.761	2.145	2.624	2.977	14
15	1.341	1.753	2.131	2.602	2.947	15
16	1.337	1.746	2.120	2.583	2.921	16
17	1.333	1.740	2.110	2.567	2.898	17
18	1.330	1.734	2.101	2.552	2.878	18
19	1.328	1.729	2.093	2.539	2.861	19
20	1.325	1.725	2.086	2.528	2.845	20
21	1.323	1.721	2.080	2.518	2.831	21
22	1.321	1.717	2.074	2.508	2.819	22
23	1.319	1.714	2.069	2.500	2.807	23
24	1.318	1.711	2.064	2.492	2.797	24
25	1.316	1.708	2.060	2.485	2.787	25
26	1.315	1.706	2.056	2.479	2.779	26
27	1.314	1.703	2.052	2.473	2.771	27
28	1.313	1.701	2.048	2.467	2.763	28
29	1.311	1.699	2.045	2.462	2.756	29
Infinity	1.282	1.645	1.960	2.326	2.576	Infinity

Research Methodology

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Table 1: Area Under Normal Curve

An entry in the table is the proportion under the entire curve which is between $z = 0$ and a positive value of z. Areas for negative values for z are obtained by symmetry.

Areas of a standard normal distribution

z	.00	.01	.02	.03	.04	.05	.06	.07	.08	.09
0.0	.0000	.0040	.0080	.0120	.0160	.0199	.0239	.0279	.0319	.0359
0.1	.0398	.0438	.0478	.0517	.0557	.0596	.0636	.0675	.0714	.0753
0.2	.0793	.0832	.0871	.0910	.0948	.0987	.1026	.1064	.1103	.1141
0.3	.1179	.1217	.1255	.1293	.1331	.1368	.1406	.1443	.1480	.1517
0.4	.1554	.1591	.1628	.1664	.1700	.1736	.1772	.1808	.1844	.1879
0.5	.1915	.1950	.1985	.2019	.2054	.2088	.2123	.2157	.2190	.2224
0.6	.2257	.2291	.2324	.2357	.2389	.2422	.2454	.2486	.2517	.2549
0.7	.2580	.2611	.2642	.2673	.2704	.2734	.2764	.2794	.2823	.2852
0.8	.2881	.2910	.2939	.2967	.2995	.3023	.3051	.3078	.3106	.3133
0.9	.3159	.3186	.3212	.3238	.3264	.3289	.3315	.3340	.3365	.3389
1.0	.3413	.3438	.3461	.3485	.3508	.3531	.3554	.3577	.3599	.3621
1.1	.3643	.3665	.3686	.3708	.3729	.3749	.3770	.3790	.3810	.3830
1.2	.3849	.3869	.3888	.3907	.3925	.3944	.3962	.3980	.3997	.4015
1.3	.4032	.4049	.4066	.4082	.4099	.4115	.4131	.4147	.4162	.4177
1.4	.4192	.4207	.4222	.4236	.4251	.4265	.4279	.4292	.4306	.4319
1.5	.4332	.4345	.4357	.4370	.4382	.4394	.4406	.4418	.4429	.4441
1.6	.4452	.4463	.4474	.4484	.4495	.4505	.4515	.4525	.4535	.4545
1.7	.4554	.4564	.4573	.4582	.4591	.4599	.4608	.4616	.4625	.4633
1.8	.4641	.4649	.4656	.4664	.4671	.4678	.4686	.4693	.4699	.4706
1.9	.4713	.4719	.4726	.4732	.4738	.4744	.4750	.4756	.4761	.4767
2.0	.4772	.4778	.4783	.4788	.4793	.4798	.4803	.4808	.4812	.4817
2.1	.4821	.4826	.4830	.4834	.4838	.4842	.4846	.4850	.4854	.4857
2.2	.4861	.4864	.4868	.4871	.4875	.4878	.4881	.4884	.4887	.4890
2.3	.4893	.4896	.4898	.4901	.4904	.4906	.4909	.4911	.4913	.4916
2.4	.4918	.4920	.4922	.4925	.4927	.4929	.4931	.4932	.4934	.4936
2.5	.4938	.4940	.4941	.4943	.4945	.4946	.4948	.4949	.4951	.4952
2.6	.4953	.4955	.4956	.4957	.4959	.4960	.4961	.4962	.4963	.4964
2.7	.4965	.4966	.4967	.4968	.4969	.4970	.4971	.4972	.4973	.4974
2.8	.4974	.4975	.4976	.4977	.4977	.4978	.4979	.4979	.4980	.4981
2.9	.4981	.4982	.4982	.4983	.4984	.4984	.4985	.4985	.4986	.4986
3.0	.4987	.4987	.4987	.4988	.4988	.4989	.4989	.4989	.4990	.4990

Table 1: Statistical Tables

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Table 2: Critical Values of Student's t-Distribution

	Level of significance for two-tailed test				
d.f.	0.20	0.10	0.05	0.02	0.01
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19	1.328	1.729	2.093	2.539	2.861
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22	1.321	1.717	2.074	2.508	2.819
23	1.319	1.714	2.069	2.500	2.807
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25	1.316	1.708	2.060	2.485	2.787
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2.3	.4893	.4896	.4898	.4901	.4904	.4906	.4909	.4911	.4913	.4916
2.4	.4918	.4920	.4922	.4925	.4927	.4929	.4931	.4932	.4934	.4936
2.5	.4938	.4940	.4941	.4943	.4945	.4946	.4948	.4949	.4951	.4952
2.6	.4953	.4955	.4956	.4957	.4959	.4960	.4961	.4962	.4963	.4964
2.7	.4965	.4966	.4967	.4968	.4969	.4970	.4971	.4972	.4973	.4974
2.8	.4974	.4975	.4976	.4977	.4977	.4978	.4979	.4979	.4980	.4981
2.9	.4981	.4982	.4982	.4983	.4984	.4984	.4985	.4985	.4986	.4986
3.0	.4987	.4987	.4987	.4988	.4988	.4989	.4989	.4989	.4990	.4990