



MASENO UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2013/2014

**FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE
DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE**

(CITY CAMPUS)

CIR 802: RESEARCH PROPOSAL WRITING

Date: 19th July 2014

Time: 9.00 – 11.00 am

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Answer ANY THREE questions of your choice..

- Q1. Imagine you are research student looking for a research topic in your field of research. With reference to the views of Osuola (1993):
- (a) Outline TWO main factors that may play a big role in choosing a suitable research topic [10 mark]
 - (b) Discuss the FIVE guidelines that may help you in selecting a researchable topic. [10 marks]
- Q2. (a) When writing a research project, most likely one of the chapters contains the subheading *Scope and Limitation of the Study*. Explain the importance of this subheading clearly distinguishing between the terms *scope* and *limitation*. [10 marks]
- (b) Outline the importance of the subheadings *Background to the Study* and *Statement of the Problem* most likely to be found in any research proposal or in one of the chapters of any research project. Distinguish clearly between the two. [10 marks]
- Q3. (a) Discuss the importance of the use of statistics in data analysis and briefly outline the difference between *Descriptive* and *Inferential* statistical analysis. [11 marks]
- (b) Measures of Central Tendency in statistics is another approach to describing a set of data, considered useful in determining a typical attribute/value of a variable. The measure is also useful in comparing the performances of two or more groups or the performance of a group over two or more periods of time. Discuss the THREE most common Measures of Central Tendency. [9 marks]
- Q4. (a) By and large, the idea of *Bibliographic Citations* and *Referencing* has become one of a great significance in research works as well as in other technical writings generally. Outline how their importance is central to *Literature Review* in a research as well as to the entire study. Clearly distinguish between the terms *References* and *Bibliography*. [10 marks]
- (b) There are certain specifications, which seek to ensure standard and uniformity on how citations are made within the body of the work (in context). With respect to the American Psychological Association (APA) Styles of Referencing, discuss how standard and uniformity is achieved. Explain factors that have contributed to the APA styles becoming a more modern format of referencing and the most widely adopted at present as opposed to the traditional or classic format (i.e. the numbering or footnote). [10 marks]

- Q5. (a) Briefly discuss the FIVE main chapters likely to be found in a typical research project report. [10 marks]
- (b) With respect to (a) outline how a great part of the research proposal finds its way into the final research project report. [10 marks]