



MASENO UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2015/2016

**FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE
DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS**

(CITY CAMPUS)

AEC 804: RESEARCH METHODS

Date: 12th December, 2015

Time: 2.00 - 5.00 pm

INSTRUCTIONS:

- This paper consists of SIX questions. Answer any other FOUR questions.

QUESTION ONE

There is a lot of discussion going on in contemporary research about the usefulness of classical hypothesis testing as an indication of the importance of results. If one study rejects the null hypothesis at the .01 level and another study rejects at the .05 level.

- Is the first case indicative of a stronger effect and Why? (5 marks)
- Discuss the concern with determining importance from classical hypothesis testing? How do sample size and standard error contribute to this discussion? (5 marks)
- What indices besides statistical significance could a statistician utilize to describe the magnitude of an effect? (5 marks)

QUESTION TWO

- The analysis below represents the relationship between 3 predictors (X1, X2, and X3) and a criterion variable (Y).

--- Correlation Coefficients ---				
	Y	X1	X2	X3
Y	1.0000	.1965	.1620	-.1389
X1	.1965	1.0000	.6484	-.0468
X2	.1620	.6484	1.0000	.0038
X3	-.1389	-.0468	.0038	1.0000

----- Variables in the Equation -----					
	B	SE B	Beta	T	Sig T
X2	.069157	.046243	.067390	1.495	.1352
X3	-.644750	.167312	-.132339	-3.854	.0001
X1	.184873	.056871	.146643	3.251	.0012
(Constant)	10.825611	.582502		18.585	.0000

In the context of the results above:

- Discuss the difference in meaning and interpretation of "B" (raw) and " β " (Beta; standardized) regression weights. (3 marks)
 - Discuss how the equation parameters above relate back to the correlation matrix. (3 marks)
 - Discuss the predictors' contributions in this equation. (3 marks)
- Discuss the benefits of empirical literature review to a researcher. (6 marks)

QUESTION THREE

- Explain the important factors to consider when choosing a sampling design for primary research. (5 marks)
- Discuss the hallmarks of empirical research. (10 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

Discuss reasons the role of literature review and methodology are critical to the success of research findings (15 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- a) Discuss the procedure of testing research hypothesis. (7 marks)
- b) Identify and explain the ethical considerations in primary research. (8Marks)

QUESTION SIX

Develop a prototype research proposal on a topic of your own choice and state your title of the study, the background to the study, the research problem, three research objectives, hypotheses and justification of the study. [15marks]