



**MASENO UNIVERSITY**  
**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2016/2017**

**THIRD YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE  
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRONOMY,  
HORTICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND  
EXTENSION WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**MAIN CAMPUS**

**AAG 308: FUNDAMENTALS OF RESEARCH**

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

Time: 12.00 - 3.00 pm

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Answer ALL the questions in SECTION A and ANY THREE questions from SECTION B.



## AAG 308; FUNDAMENTALS OF RESEARCH

DURATION: 3 HRS

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**  
**ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN SECTION A AND ANY OTHER**  
**THREE QUESTIONS IN SECTION B.**

**SECTION A (25 MARKS)**  
**ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION**

1. What is the difference between the output and the outcome of research? **(2 marks)**
  2. State any 4 sources of research funding. **(3 marks)**
  3. Outline any 6 factors that must be taken into consideration in the design of experimental research **(3 marks)**
  4. What 3 points must young researchers keep in mind when choosing a research topic? **(1.5 marks)**
  5. State any 3 questions that can help in assessing the appeal of a proposed research problem. **(1.5 marks)**
  6. What are the main methods used in observational research? **(3 marks)**
  7. Give any 6 considerations that can motivate an individual to undertake research **(3 marks)**
  8. Outline any 6 common mistakes made by beginners in the execution of research. **(3 marks)**
  9. Specify the main forms in which research findings can be presented. **(2 marks)**
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10. What is the difference between data and information in the context of knowledge generation and transmission in research? **(3 marks)**

**SECTION A (45 MARKS)**

**ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION**

11. Giving appropriate illustrations, explain why it is important for university students to be familiar with the scientific method of generating new knowledge **(15 marks)**.
12. Discuss the analysis of research results highlighting its significance, procedures and considerations in the acquisition of new knowledge **(15 marks)**.
13. Write short notes about literature review in research underscoring its objectives, motivation, foundations, challenges, and bibliography compilation **(15 marks)**.
14. One aspect of scientific research lies in its interest in or concern for the actual or real, fact as distinguished from the abstract, speculative, or imagined explanations. This makes the knowledge so acquired factual as opposed to arbitrary, thereby more trustworthy and provable. Using the preceding narrative as a master plan, discuss other feature about scientific research that makes it diametrically opposed to mythism and superstition **(15 marks)**.