



MASENO UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2013/2014

**FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE DEGREE
OF MASTER OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS
(CITY CAMPUS-WEEKEND)**

**AEC 804: RESEARCH METHODS & COMPUTER
APPLICATIONS**

Date: 19th July 2014

Time: 2.00 – 4.00/5.00 pm

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Answer any FOUR questions.
- Each question carry 15 marks..



QUESTION ONE

Assume you are a government officer in the Ministry of Planning and Development and that you have been requested to research on emerging Development issues in your county;

- (i). Focusing on the qualities of a good research title, suggest a suitable title for the proposed study. (2 marks)
- (ii). Highlight the guidelines for conducting literature review for the study (4 marks)
- (iii). Identify and explain any three data collection instruments for the study. (3marks)
- (iv). Explain the merits and demerits for each of the identified data collection instruments in (iii) above. (4 marks)
- (v). Explain how you would enhance reliability of any of the data collection instruments. (2 marks)

QUESTION TWO

- (a). Briefly describe the research abstract. (4marks)
- (b). Explain the difference between basic and applied research (4marks)
- (c). Explain the critical conditions that a good research hypothesis must satisfy. (3marks)
- (d). Explain the role of research hypotheses in a study process. (4marks)

QUESTION THREE

- a) Explain the meaning of the term research design. (2 marks)
- b) Elucidate the qualities of a good research design. (3 marks)
- c) Explain the type of errors that research design attempts to minimize (5 marks)
- d) Discuss the strategies that may be used to reduce errors in study design. (5 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- a) 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)	10.925611	.582502		18.585	.0000

- a) In the context of the results above:

- (i) Discuss the predictor contributions in this equation. (3marks)
- (ii) How would you expect the equation weights for X2 and X3 to change if X1 is removed from the analysis? (2marks)
- (b) Identify the major methods of data presentation. (2marks)
- (c) Explain the difference between discussion and interpretation of results. (4marks)
- (d) Explain the reasons for conducting research. (4marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- (a). Explain the concept of measurement process in research. (4 marks)
- (b). Discuss sources of differences in measurements. (7marks)
- (c). Briefly describe the criteria for evaluating a measurement tool. (4 marks)

QUESTION SIX

- (a). Identify and explain any three types of research. (3marks)
- (b). Explain the reasons for conducting research. (4marks)
- (c). Discuss the qualities of a good research. (4marks)
- (d). State and explain the ethical issues to be observed in research. (4marks)