

CHUKA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF MASTER OF ECONOMICS

MSEC 803: RESEARCH METHODS IN ECONOMICS

STREAMS:

TIME: 3 HOURS

DAY/DATE: TUESDAY 13 /07/ 2021

8.30 AM – 11.30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Answer Question ONE and any other TWO Questions

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY)

Mukembu, a student at Chuka University, wants to conduct a research study to fulfill his graduation requirements. The topic of his thesis is ‘The Effect of Non-Performing Loans on the Performance of Microfinance Institutions: A case Study of SACCOs in Chuka.

Required:

- Identify the key variables for the study and state the independent and dependent variables. [4 Marks]
- Mukembu wants to evaluate whether his research topic is good. Describe the attributes of a good topic. [6 Marks]
- In view of this study, explain the various steps that will be taken by Mukembu in the research process. [10 Marks]
- The student will be required to develop a research proposal for this study. Discuss the main contents of the research proposal. [10 Marks]

QUESTION TWO

- a. Differentiate the following terms as used in economic research:
- i. Pure research and Applied Research. [2 Marks]
 - ii. Exploratory Research and Descriptive Research. [2 Marks]
 - iii. Longitudinal Research and Cross-sectional Research. [2 Marks]
 - iv. Quantitative Variables and Qualitative Variables. [2 Marks]
 - v. Moderator variables and intervening variables. [2 Marks]
- b. Discuss **FIVE** probabilistic sampling techniques that can be used by a researcher to select a sample from a population. [10 Marks]

QUESTION THREE

- a. Define ‘research design’ and explain why it is important. [7 Marks]
- b. Describe the characteristics of a good research design. [5 Marks]
- c. Describe **FOUR** sources of error in research design. [8 Marks]

QUESTION FOUR

The management of Markstore Investment Limited, a manufacturing company in Chuka, has noted that the motivation of workers has been on the decline. It has also been noted that staff motivation has affected the performance of the company. The company has consulted a researcher to conduct research and provide factual information on the issue.

Required:

- a. Write any **TWO** research questions relating to this study. [2 Marks]
- b. The researcher will be required to conduct a thorough review of literature. Explain why literature review is important in research. [5 Marks]
- c. Suggest any **TWO** primary data collection techniques that can be used in the study. Explain why they are suitable for the study. [4 Marks]
- d. Suggest any **FOUR** statistical software or computer packages that can be used for data analysis. [4 Marks]
- e. Explain the ethical issues that should be considered in this study. [5 Marks]

QUESTION FIVE

- a. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of secondary data. [8 Marks]
 - b. Differentiate 'Reliability' and 'Validity' [4 Marks]
 - c. Describe the **FOUR** measurement levels used by researchers. [8 Marks]
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