

**CHUKA**



**UNIVERSITY**

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**

**THIRD YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

**AGEC 312: RESEARCH METHODS**

**STREAMS: AGECE Y3S1, AGBM Y3S1**

**TIME: 2 HOURS**

**DAY/DATE: TUESDAY 04/12/2018**

**2.30 P.M. – 4.30 P.M.**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- **Answer all questions in section A and any three in section B.**
- **Answer each question on separate pages.**

**SECTION A**

**QUESTION A**

- (a) “Processing of data implies editing, coding, classification and tabulation.” Describe in brief these four operations pointing out the significance of each in context of research study. (10 marks)
- (b) Describe the steps that a prudent researcher is likely to undertake in Sampling Design. (7 marks)
- (c) Consider the following problematic situation,

With airline deregulation, there were price wars among the various airlines that cut costs in different ways. According to reports, the airlines faced charges of air safety violation where there were several near collisions in midair and one accident that resulted in the recent years. Further, important factors that seem to have influenced these are poor communication among the cockpit crew members themselves, poor coordination between ground staff and cockpit crew, minimal training given to cockpit crew and management philosophy that encouraged a decentralized structure. It would be nice to know if these factors did indeed contribute to the safety violation, and if so, to what extent.

**Required:**

- (i) Develop at least four research objectives from the above problematic situation. (4 marks)
- (ii) Develop at least four research hypotheses from the above problematic situation. (4 marks)

**SECTION B**  
**QUESTION TWO**

- (a) Explain the importance of knowing how research is done. (5 marks)
- (b) Explain the meaning of a variable. (2 marks)
- (c) Describe the techniques that a researcher will go about in developing working hypotheses. (4 marks)
- (d) Explain the qualities of a good research. (4 marks)

**QUESTION THREE**

- (a) Discuss the considerations that a researcher should put into account when preparing a research design pertinent to a particular research problem. (8 marks)
- (b) Illustrate the pertinent characteristics of the scientific research methods. (7 marks)

**QUESTION FOUR**

- (a) What is a research problem? (2 marks)
- (b) Describe the necessity of defining a research problem. (4 marks)
- (c) Explain the problems encountered by researchers in Kenya. (4 marks)
- (d) What are the considerations that a researcher should input a problem statement? (5 marks)

**QUESTION FIVE**

- (a) Explain four merits of the interview methods as technique of data collection. (8 marks)
  - (b) Discuss the criteria that researcher use in the selection of appropriate method for data collection. (4 marks)
  - (c) In hypothesis testing, the main question is whether to accept the null hypothesis or not to accept the null hypothesis. Outline procedure for hypothesis testing. (3 marks)
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