MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

REGULAR UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS
2022/2023 ACADEMIC YEAR
FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS
MSc. ECONOMICS

COURSE CODE: ECO 8107

COURSE TITLE: RESEARCH METHODS

DATE: 1ST FEBRUARY 2023   **TIME: 1430-1730HRS**

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Answer any **FIVE** questions
2. This paper consists of **FOUR** printed pages. Please turn over.

QUESTION ONE (20 MARKS)

Below is an abstract from a Master's Thesis by Otieno, (2021)

Abstract

Trends consistently show that the contraceptive prevalence rate in urban areas in Kenya is higher than the CPR in rural areas. Similarly, the unmet need for contraception has been higher in rural areas. Currently, the CPR in rural Kenya is 55.5% compared to 61.8% in urban areas. The unmet need for contraceptives is at 20.2% and 13.4% respectively for rural as well as urban areas. It is important to understand drivers of contraceptive uptake in rural areas. This study investigated determinants of modern contraceptive uptake in rural areas in Kenya using Kenya Demographic and Health Survey data for 2014. Based on study findings, association between age, religion and desire for more children is negative and significant. The study recommends enhanced advocacy and campaign for school completion, religious leaders' involvement in the contraceptive conversation, targeted interventions at the poor, less educated and more contraceptive information availability on media platforms.

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Deduce the following issues from the abstract

a) What would be a likely title to this study?   (**1 Mark)**
b) What is the resrach problem at hand? What distinguishes the problem from a symptom?   (**4 Marks)**
c) Come up with a conceptual framework detailing the study outcomes.
                                                                              (**4 marks)**
d) What is the unit of study for this research (justify your answer). **(2 marks)**
e) State any two objectives and null hypothesis that would emanate from this abstract?   (**2 Marks)**
f) What data type was used in the study? (justify your answer)   (**1 mark)**

g) What are the pros and cons of the data type used in the study (tabulate).
(4 marks)
h) Show a model specification of the data **(2 marks)**

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

a) Explain the four qualities of good research **(8 marks)**
b) What is research design? Given your understanding of a good research design. Is a single research design suitable in all research studies? If not, why? (**8 marks**)
c) Write the key pointers on the important aspects considered in questionnaire design. (**4 marks**)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

a)   Citing relevant examples discuss probability and non-probaility sampling techniques (**10 marks**)
b)   Discuss the role of ethics in research (**10 marks**)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

a)   A certain population is divided into five strata so that N1 = 2000, N2 = 2000, N3 = 1800, N4 = 1700, and N5 = 2500. Respective standard deviations are: s1 = 1.6 , s2 = 2.0 , s3 = 4.4 , s4 = 4.8 , s5 = 6.0 and further the expected sampling cost in the first two strata is KES 400 per interview and in the remaining three strata the sampling cost is KES 600 per interview. How should a sample of size n = 226 be allocated to the five strata if we adopt proportionate sampling design; if we adopt disproportionate sampling design considering (i) only the differences in stratum variability (ii) differences in stratum variability as well as the differences in stratum sampling costs. (**10 marks**)
b)   Discuss the key components in a research report and some of the considerations made in each component. (**10 marks**)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

a) Examine the merits and limitations of the observation method in collecting material. Illustrate your answer with suitable examples. (**8 marks**)
b) Discuss the challenges that face empirical researchers today. (**6 marks**)

c) Distinguish between conceptual definitions and operational definitions, and give an example of each. (**6 marks)**

QUESTION SIX (20 MARKS)

a) Why do social scientists use or try to use experiments? What are the potential benefits and drawbacks of experiments in social sciences research? (**10 Marks)**

b) Why would a researcher choose to triangulate? Is triangulation more important in a laboratory or a field setting? Why? (**10 marks)**

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