



# **MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY**

**REGULAR UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**

**2018/2019 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**THIRD YEAR SECOND SEMESTER**

**SCHOOL OF TOURISM & NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

**BACHEOR OF ARTS (GEOGRAPHY) AND BACHELOR OF  
EDUCATION (ARTS)**

**COURSE CODE: GEO 3229**

**COURSE TITLE: RESEARCH METHODS AND FIELD  
COURSE IN GEOGRAPHY**

**DATE: 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2019**

**TIME: 0830 – 1030 HRS**

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## **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer **ALL** questions in Section A, and any **TWO** questions in Section B.  
Use illustrations where appropriate. A simple calculator required during this  
examination. Borrowing of any materials from other candidates is strictly not  
allowed.

This paper consists of 3 printed pages. Please turn over

## **SECTION A (ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS)**

### **Question One**

(a) Explain two characteristics that makes a project geographical. **(4 marks)**

(b) Give operational definitions of the following terms

- i. Research design **(1 mark)**
- ii. Hawthorne effect **(1 mark)**
- iii. Conceptual framework **(1 mark)**
- iv. Gantt chart **(1 mark)**

(c) Read the article, "*Learning not for the faint-hearted in dusty, makeshift classrooms*", attached herewith that was obtained from one Daily Newspaper, Daily Nation, Page 19, of 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018, and answer the questions that follow.

- i. Identify FOUR geographical areas of concern that are suggested by Ms. Florah Koech in this article **(4 marks)**
- ii. Develop of one the areas of concern you have indicated above into a description of a researchable geographic problem. **(2 marks)**
- iii. Describe dependent variable(s) of the selected problem. **(2marks)**
- iv. Describe the Independent variable(s). **(2 marks)**
- v. State two SMART objectives of your proposed study and explain the 'smartness' of each **(4 marks)**

(d) **Table 1: Annual crime statistics** (Source: Kenya Police Force)

S/No	Category of Crime	2010	2011
1	Stealing	11986	13797
2	Breakings	6453	7325
3	Other penal code offences	4956	5726
4	Robbery	2843	3262
5	Vehicle and other thefts	1365	1768
6	Homicide	2239	2641
7	Economic crimes	2662	3036
8	Theft by servant	2591	2889
9	Other offences against persons	20,012	20,144
10	Theft of stock	2244	2269
11	Criminal damage	3327	3345
12	Dangerous drugs	5081	4649
13	Offences against morality	4817	4703
14	Offences involving police officers	37	27
15	Corruption	62	52
16	Traffic Offences	103	100
17	Offences involving tourist	1	0

Table 1 above was obtained by a researcher from a Kenya Police Force report. It gives an overview of the annual statistics of cases of crimes reported to police stations during the years 2010 and 2011 in Kenya.

- i. Identify the two crime categories that had the highest percentage increase **(2 marks)**

- ii. Draw a suitable diagram to show the major features of the tabulated data. **(2 marks)**
  - iii. Describe the general features of reported crimes in the country during the year 2011 **(2 marks)**
  - iv. From these statistics give one suitable recommendation targeted at one of the stakeholders in the system. **(2 marks)**
- [Total 30 marks]**

**SECTION B (ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS)**

**Question two**

The equation below is simple linear regression model with Q and R as variables.

$$Q = \alpha_1 R + \alpha_2$$

Explain using hypothetical data the graphical data analysis techniques that a researcher could use to obtain the values of;

- (a) Coefficient  $\alpha_1$  **(4 marks)**      (b) Coefficient  $\alpha_2$ . **(6 marks)**

**Question three**

- (a) What is a 'target population' **(2 marks)**
- (b) What is an 'accessible population' **(2 marks)**
- (c) Explain SIX factors that usually affect the representativeness of a sample in survey research. **(6 marks)**

**Question four**

- (a) Name four organizations in Kenya that should be included in the programme of any integrated field course in geography. Give a justification for each. **(4 marks)**
- (b) During integrated field course visits geography students usually experience several hurdles and challenges that impact negatively on the quality of their field work reports. Describe SIX strategies that public universities could put in place to reduce them. **(6 marks)**

**Question five**

- (a) Explain how a researcher could take care of any TWO of the following in an undergraduate research project;
  - i. Plagiarism **(2 marks)**
  - ii. Validity of instruments **(2 marks)**
  - iii. Language barriers **(2 marks)**
  - iv. Reliability of instruments **(2 Marks)**
- (b) Some travelers and tourists use blogs as a diary to document their experiences. The information documented could be quite personal. Entries could even include how the individual coped with an illness or embarrassing experiences. Blogs are self published and therefore open access for any researcher. Discuss SIX ethical issues involved in the use of such blogs as a data source. **(6 marks)**