



DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

University Examination 2014/2015

**THIRD YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR
OF SCIENCE IN ACTUARIAL SCIENCE**

HRD 2114 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

DATE: 12TH APRIL 2015

TIMES: 2.00 PM – 4.00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER QUESTIONS ONE AND ANY OTHER TWO

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS) (COMPULSORY)

- a) Explain why it is necessary to write a research proposal before embarking on a research exercise. (4 marks)
- b) State and explain briefly three ways of knowing. (6 marks)
- c) As a consultant for a small research firm, you have been requested to help develop training guidelines for survey instrument designers and field interviewers.
 - i. Describe three measurement characteristics that must be considered to ensure the survey instrument is a sound measurement of the study. (6 marks)
 - ii. Describe giving examples three types of response measurement scales they can use in the survey instrument. (6 marks)
 - iii. Describe four types of interview error sources they should guard against. (8 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

The chief executive officer of the Steadman group has invited you to a conference organized by his firm entitled “*The future and role of research in the 21st century.*” He expects you to make a presentation during the conference. He requires you to;

- i. Highlight the importance of knowing how research is done
 - ii. Enumerate the purposes of research in 21st century
 - iii. Discuss the significance of research in 21st century
- (20 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Research may be characterized as either applied or pure research; differentiate between the following types of research:
- i. Applied and pure research (4 marks)
 - ii. Descriptive and analytical research (4 marks)
 - iii. Quantitative and qualitative research. (4 marks)
- b) One of the major purposes of hypothesis is to bridge the gap between the problem and the solution in research. Identify at least four characteristics of good hypothesis. (8 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain four purposes of literature review (8 marks)
- b) Citing examples explain moderating, extraneous and intervening variables as used in research (6 marks)
- c) Explain why a research report can be rejected (6 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of sampling instead of researching on the whole population. (10 marks)
- b) Indicate and explain with an example what should be shown in the statement of purpose of research. (6 marks)
- c) Differentiate between research methods and research methodology. (4 marks)