



Strathmore
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

BACHELOR OF ARTS

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION

BAA 3205: RESEARCH METHODS

Date: Tuesday 13th April

Time: 15:00 – 17:00

Instructions

1. This examination consists of **FIVE** questions.
2. Answer **Question ONE (COMPULSORY)** and any other **TWO** questions.

Questions One

Global and national environmental policies are cited as having a great impact on human rights, trade and financial regulations as well as the foreign policy of nations. As a student of international relations, you are interested to find out how environmental policies will influence trade and financial regulations in future.

Required.

- a) Explain why you would conduct in-depth literature survey and illustrate the sources you will refer in carrying out the research. **(10 marks)**
- b) In conducting the research would you consider setting and testing hypothesis for the problem? Justify your answer. **(8 marks)**
- c) Explain the factors you will consider in writing your final report to make it relevant and meaningful. **(12 Marks)**

Question Two

The government of Kenya wants to conduct research to establish how international trade relations will influence its foreign policy for the next five years. You are one of the researchers engaged to conduct this research.

- a) Describe the process you will follow in selecting an appropriate sample for the study. **(10 marks)**
- b) If you were to use an online data collection instrument, what challenges would you expect to face and how would you resolve them. **(10 marks)**

Question Three

- a) In conducting research, one is required to observe utmost care to minimize bias. Illustrate how you can minimise research bias in conducting research. **(10 marks)**
- b) Explain the process you will follow in conducting data analysis to ensure it reflects the objectives of the study **(10 marks)**

Question Four

Focus groups are good in studying and analysing causes of conflicts among communities and generating solutions. As a group of friends, you have decided to use the method to study the nature of conflicts among urban youth in low-income neighbourhoods.

- a) Explain the challenges you are likely to face in setting up and managing the focus groups. **(10 marks)**
- b) Describe the process you will use to analyse the qualitative data you collect to make it meaningful and relevant. **(10 marks)**

Question Five

- a) You are scheduled to give a talk to a group of International relations students visiting your campus. The theme is research as a tool for fostering good relations among nations. Using relevant examples illustrate how research enables nations to achieve this objective. **(12 marks)**
- b) The choice of measurement tools in data analysis influences the reliability and validity of the research findings. As a researcher describe the factors you will consider in selecting the measurement tools to use. **(8 marks)**