

CHUKA



UNIVERSITY

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**

**EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF  
PROCUREMENT AND LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT**

**BPLM 450: RESEARCH METHODS**

**STREAMS: BPLM**

**TIME: 2 HOURS**

**DAY/DATE: THURSDAY 23/09/2021**

**11.30 A.M – 1.30 P.M.**

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- **Attempt question ONE and any other TWO questions.**

**QUESTION ONE**

- (a) A researcher has considered the following research topics, ‘Green procurement practices and supply chain performance of manufacturing firms in Kenya.’

**Required:**

- (i) Identify the study variables involved in the above scenario stating what types of variables they are based on their relationships to each other. (2 marks)
- (ii) Formulate the general research objective and set out the null hypothesis envisaged in the above research topic. (2 marks)
- (iii) Sketch a suitable conceptual model and explain the interrelationships between the variables. (2 marks)
- (b) Using illustrations as applicable, explain the following as applied in research methods.
- (i) Variable operationalization (2 marks)
- (ii) Validity in research (2 marks)
- (c) Giving examples distinguish between the following:
- (i) Applied research and basic research. (4 marks)

- (ii) Cross-sectional studies and longitudinal studies. (4 marks)
- (d) When writing a research paper, it is important to cite all sources that you consult in your research. Explain what citation is and detail any four reasons why citation is important in research. (6 marks)
- (e) Describe what is meant by a research design and explain its role in research. (6 marks)

**QUESTION TWO**

- (a) Explain the key factors that a researcher considers when selecting a research topic. (10 marks)
- (b) During the designing of methodology data analysis aspects, a researcher considers among others the feel for data and the goodness of measures. Discuss with illustrations. (10 marks)

**QUESTION THREE**

- (a) “Literature review is a critical aspect in scientific process.” Discuss this statement and also explain the different types literature that a researcher incorporates in research project. (12 marks)
- (b) Data collection method is an integral part of the research design. Selection of the appropriate method of data collection may enhance value of research and at the same wrong choice may lead to questionable research findings.

**Required:**

Examine any four factors that determine the choice data collection method. (8 marks)

**QUESTION FOUR**

- (a) A good research problem should satisfy certain basic requirements. Explain. (8 marks)
  - (b) What is stratified random sampling technique and when should it be applied in researching? (6 marks)
  - (c) Several ethical issues should be addressed while undertaking research. Examine any three ethical issues arising specifically in documenting the literature review. (6 marks)
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