

CHUKA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

**EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF SCIENCE
IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**

AGEC 855: RESEARCH METHODS

STREAMS: MSC (AGEC)

TIME: 3 HOURS

DAY/DATE: WEDNESDAY 07/8/2019

2.30 P.M. – 5.30 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer all questions in section A and any other TWO questions in section B

SECTION A

QUESTION ONE

(i) State what plagiarism is and explain appropriate method of avoiding plagiarism.

[10

marks]

(ii) The fact that an individual has no information does not imply knowledge gap. It may be ignorance on his/her part". Discuss this statement clearly showing the importance of literature review as an important part of the research process. [10 marks]

SECTION B

QUESTION TWO

Imagine you have just attended a research proposal presentation of one of your colleagues, where a member of the examination panel posed the following question". Are you sure your proposal addresses a problem or a symptom?" After the presentation, the colleagues comes to you for help in shaping-up his statement of the problem.

AGEC 855

- (i) Present the advice you would give to help clarify the distinction between a symptom and a problem. [5 marks]
- (ii) Discuss the method you would advise him to use in identifying problem, and thus avoid wasting time on the symptom. [15 marks]

QUESTION THREE

- (i) Discuss why simple random sampling is rarely appropriate for social scientist researchers. [10 marks]
- (ii) Imagine you are hired to the post Agricultural Policy Advisor to the national government. The government is keen on evidence based policy making. Your immediate task is to train social scientist researchers, working with the ministry of agriculture, on procedures of ensuring their results and recommendations are valid and reliable.

Required:

Prepare a presentation for use in the training exercise, clearly outlining various aspects of research validity and reliance [10 marks]

NB: your presentation should be atleast one (1) page:

QUESTION FOUR

- (i) Distinguish between action research and traditional research [5 marks]
- (ii) A common approach to development of small and medium agricultural enterprises proceeds linearly as follows: Researchers generate technologies, passes them to extensionists, who then pass them on to potential small and medium entrepreneurs.
- (a) Required Critic the linear approach [5 marks]
- (b) Suggest why action research may be a more appropriate approach. [10 marks]
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