

CHUKA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

**FIRST YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS**

AGEC 855: RESEARCH METHODS

STREAMS: MSC (AGEC)

TIME: 3 HOURS

DAY/DATE: MONDAY 10/12/2018

8.30 AM – 11.30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Answer ALL questions in Section A and any three in Section B
- Answer each question on separate pages

SECTION A

SECTION A: ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS (25 MARKS)

1. (a) Explain the following
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|-------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| (i) | Design of the research project | [3 marks] |
| (ii) | Motivational in research | [3 marks] |
| (iii) | Criteria for good research | [3 marks] |
- (b) Explain the justification for sampling in research [4 marks]
- (c) Explain three tests of sound measurement that an agribusiness researcher can employ while undertaking an agricultural research. [6 marks]
- (d) Explain the characteristics must a hypothesis possess in order to be a good research hypothesis? [6 marks]

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS (45 MARKS)

2. (a) You are tasked to carry out an evaluation research. Analyze five variables that will be of interest to you as a researcher in this kind of research. [10 marks]
- (b) Discuss five Pertinent components of research problem. [5 marks]
3. (a) Discuss the purpose of literature review in a research. [10 marks]
- (b) Discuss five characteristics that is unique to the case study method of research. [5 marks]
4. (a) “Experimental method of research is not suitable in social science fields such as Agricultural Economics”. Discuss five mostly likely problems in the introduction of this research design in a social research. [10 marks]
- (b) Explain how “Don’t know” (or DK) responses pose problems in data processing. [5 marks]
5. (a) Processing of data implies editing, coding, classification and tabulation. Explain these four operations pointing out the significance of each in the context of research study. [10 marks]
- (b) Analyze the characteristics that secondary data must possess in order to be used in a scientific research. [5 marks]
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