

CHUKA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE
IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT

AGEC 855/AGBM 891: RESEARCH METHODS

STREAMS: AGECE, AGBM (Y1S2)

TIME: 3 HOURS

DAY/DATE: MONDAY 14/04/2025

2.30 P.M. – 5.30 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer all questions in section A and any three in section B
- Answer each question on separate pages
- All answers must be supported with relevant examples and references where applicable

SECTION A: ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS (20 MARKS)

1.

a) Explain the following concepts in the context of research methodology:

- i. The role of paradigm shifts in the evolution of research methodologies **(3 marks)**
- ii. The concept of reflexivity in qualitative research and its importance in ensuring research credibility **(3 marks)**
- iii. The difference between deductive and inductive reasoning in research **(3 marks)**

b) Discuss the concept of theoretical framework and its role in guiding the research process **(5 marks)**

c) Explain three advanced qualitative data analysis techniques and their applications in agricultural research **(6 marks)**

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS (60 MARKS)

2.

- a) Mixed-methods research is increasingly popular in agricultural economics and agribusiness Management. Discuss the advantages and challenges of using a mixed-methods approach, providing examples from recent studies **(10 marks)**
- b) Explain the concept of theoretical saturation in qualitative research and how it can be achieved in a study **(5 marks)**
- c) Critically evaluate the importance of research ethics committees in ensuring the integrity of research studies **(5 marks)**

3.

- a) Big data is transforming agricultural research. Discuss the opportunities and challenges of using big data analytics in agricultural economics research, with specific examples **(10 marks)**
- b) Explain the concept of data triangulation and its role in enhancing the reliability of research findings **(5 marks)**
- c) Explain the concept of research scalability and its importance in ensuring that research findings can be applied across different contexts **(5 marks)**

4.

- a) The replication crisis in social sciences has implications for agricultural economics and agribusiness research. Discuss the causes of the replication crisis and propose strategies to improve the reproducibility of research findings in agricultural economics **(10 marks)**
- b) Explain the concept of research dissemination and discuss innovative ways to share research findings with stakeholders in agriculture **(5 marks)**
- c) Explain the concept of research bias and discuss strategies to minimize bias in agricultural research **(5 marks)**

5.

- a) Critically evaluate the use of case study research in agricultural economics and agribusiness management. Discuss its strengths and limitations, with examples **(10 marks)**
- b) Longitudinal studies are valuable in understanding agricultural trends. Discuss the advantages and challenges of conducting longitudinal research in agricultural economics. **(10 marks)**

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