

CHUKA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

**EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
INFORMATION SCIENCE**

BSIS 381: RESEARCH METHODS

STREAMS: BSC (IS)

TIME: 2 HOURS

DAY/DATE: WEDNESDAY 17/04/2024

8.30 A.M – 10.30 A.M.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- **Do NOT write anything on this question paper.**
- **Attempt question ONE and any other TWO questions.**

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

(I) Read the following abstract taken from a study and respond to the questions below:

Abstract:

Conflict in University setting is an inherent component of academic life. Leaders spend more than 40% of their time managing conflict. Department heads are in a unique position – they encounter conflict from individuals they manage and from others to whom they report such as a senior administrator in the position of Dean. There are very few studies that seek to ascertain the conflict management styles of department heads and how these impact leadership and professional development. This research study explored the conflict management styles of 20 department heads across a variety of disciplines and with varying levels of experience at a public university. Based on an analysis of conflict management styles, it is found that department heads, in general, have no formal conflict intervention framework and no professional development training to organize their conflict intervention strategies.

- (a) Develop an appropriate research topic? (2 marks)
- (b) What is the purpose of this study? (2 marks)
- (c) Develop THREE specific research objective for this study. (3 marks)

- (d) Develop THREE research questions for this study. (3 marks)
- (e) What research gap has this study attempted to address? (3 marks)
- (f) Analyze the finding(s) of this study and its implication? (3 marks)
- (ii) Examine FIVE (5) reasons why literature review is significant in social science research. (10 marks)
- (iii) Analyze FOUR (4) sources of research problems. (4 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- (a) Your lecturer gave you a research paper to write on a topic of your choice. Discuss FIVE (5) factors that would help you come up with a good research topic. (10 marks)
- (b) Explain FIVE (5) advantages that one would enjoy using an interview schedule over any other research tool in research process. (10 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- (a) Analyze FOUR (4) importance of a conceptual framework in the design of research proposal? (8 marks)
- (b) Discuss the key elements of a successful research proposal. (12 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- (a) Examine the differences between qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches in research? (12 marks)
- (b) Discuss with examples FOUR (4) ethical considerations critical when conducting an academic research? (8 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- (a) In a research proposal, chapter one is key since it is recognized as the backbone of any study. This chapter contains background of the study, statement of research problem and significance of the study. Discuss each of the three elements stated above. (12 marks)
 - (b) Discuss FOUR (4) key stages a researcher must follow during the research process. (8 marks)
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