MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2018/2019 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

THIRD YEAR SPECIAL/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNITY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ESU 304: RESEARCH METHODS

DATE: 25/7/2019   **TIME: 2.00-4.00 PM**

INSTRUCTIONS;

Answer question ONE and any other TWO questions

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

Nicole Schutte (1988) studied the effects of playing violent videogames on children's aggressive behaviour. A group of 5-7 year old children were selected as subjects. She manipulated the variable of exposure to violence by having half the children play a violent videogame while the other half played a non-violent videogame. She then measured the number of times children from each group acted in an aggressive manner (pushing other children, hitting or kicking toys), during a five minute play period. Her results showed that the children who watched the violent videogame were almost twice as aggressive.

a)   What type of study is this?   (5 marks)

b)   Formulate a general objective for this study   (5 marks)

c)   Indicate the 'independent' and 'dependent' variable in this study   (5 marks)

d)   Explain two limitations for this study   (5 marks)

e)   What are the potential threats to the validity of this study   (5 marks)

f)   Outline the ethical considerations that you would take into account in this study. (5 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Differentiate between the following.

a).   Population and Sample   (5 marks)

b).   Closed and Open-ended questions   (5 marks)

c).   Causal-comparative and Experimental research   (5 marks)

d).   Ratio and Interval data   (5 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

a)   Explain the meaning and purpose of research   (8 marks)

b)   Discuss briefly the types of research giving examples of research designs under them.

(12 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Sampling methods fall into two broad categories, probability and non-probability. Name and describe in detail two probability and two non-probability sampling methods that you can use in conducting research.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Research proposal writing is an art that must be developed and practiced. Describe in detail the information and key features of proposals under the following sections of a proposal.

a)   Abstract   (4 marks)

b)   Statement of the problem   (4 marks)

c)   Research objectives   (4 marks)

d)   Literature Review   (4 marks)

e)   References   (4 marks)