

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

## UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF  
ARTS IN RELIGION

**REST 702: PRINCIPLES OF THEOLOGICAL RESEARCH  
METHODOLOGY**

***STREAM: MA. RELIGIOUS STUDIES***

***TIME: 3 HRS***

***DAY: MONDAY [8.30 A.M-11.30 A.M]***

***DATE: 2/02/2026***

**THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF TWO (2) PAGES**

**PLEASE DO NOT OPEN UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR SAYS SO.**

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*Vision: Nurture and Transform for the World*

*Mission: To Contribute to the World through Education, Research, Training, Consultancy, Innovation, Outreach and Collaboration*

**INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES**

Answer **FOUR** Questions (Question **One** and **any other** three). Question one is **compulsory**. **All** questions carry **equal** marks. Marks will be awarded for clarity, accuracy and good handwriting.

**QUESTION ONE**

Discuss any three of the following paradigms in theological research **(15 marks)**.

- a) Hermeneutical paradigm **(5 marks)**
- b) Empirical paradigm. **(5 marks)**
- c) Postmodern paradigm **(5 marks)**
- d) Pragmatic paradigm **(5 marks)**
- e) Comparative paradigm **(5 marks)**

**QUESTION TWO**

Analyze the strengths and challenges of using interviews and ethnography in theological research **(15 marks)**.

**QUESTION THREE**

Discuss the importance of ethical considerations when studying religious communities **(15 marks)**.

**QUESTION FOUR**

Discuss the role of conceptual and theoretical frameworks in guiding a study **(15 marks)**.

**QUESTION FIVE**

Explain the stages of exegesis and how they guide textual interpretation **(15 marks)**.

**QUESTION FOUR**

a) Explain the various sources of theological research **(15 marks)**.

**or**

b) Discuss characteristics of good research objectives **(15 marks)**.