

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

# UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

**FIRST SEMESTER 2025/2026 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**THIRD YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE  
OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PEACE AND CONFLICT  
STUDIES**

**PACS 314: RESEARCH METHODS**

***STREAM: R***

***TIME: 2 HRS***

***DAY: THURSDAY [8.30 A.M-10.30 A.M] DATE: 29/01/2026***

**THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE (3) PAGES**

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

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- i) Answer question one (30mks) and any other two questions (20mks each)*
- ii) Do not write anything on this question Paper*

**QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)**

*As a consultant in peace and conflict resolution, have been assigned to lead a group of researchers in studying the ongoing conflict at Kainuk, located along Turkana and West Pokot counties. Kainuk in locates at Turkana County.*

- a) Explain the process you would follow to select a researchable topic related to peacebuilding or conflict resolution in Kainuk, considering the recent conflicts along Turkana and West Pokot counties. **(4 Marks)**
- b) Write a researchable topic, that suits the problem, state the general *objective*, *three specific objectives* and research questions to guide your investigation into the conflict and peacebuilding efforts in Kainuk. **.....(7 Marks)**
- c) Illustrate by the use of a diagram, the interconnection between the dependent variable and the independent variables. **(4 Marks)**
- d) By the use of relevant examples describe the four levels of measurements you are likely to encounter in your study. **....(15 Marks)**

**QUESTION 2 (20 MARKS)**

*A local NGO in Laikipia West sub county has observed a rising trend of school dropouts among adolescents in a rural community. Despite available educational facilities, many teenagers are leaving school prematurely, which is affecting the community's development. The NGO wants to conduct a social research study to understand the underlying causes of this phenomenon and how to address them effectively.*

- a) Explain the importance of formulating a clear statement of the problem in social research. **(10 Marks)**
- b) Using the given situation, develop a suitable statement of the problem that the research should address. **(10 Marks)**

**QUESTION 3 (20 MARKS)**

- a) Describe any four different research designs used in social sciences. (10 Marks)
- b) Explain the advantages and limitations of each research design in addressing social issues (10 Marks)

**QUESTION 4 (20 MARKS)**

*As a researcher, you are investigating the attitudes of residents towards a new community development project in a rural village. To gather relevant information, the researcher needs to choose appropriate methods of collecting data that will provide comprehensive insights into the residents' perceptions and opinions.*

- a) Discuss various data collection methods used in social research (10 Marks)
- b) Using the given situation, identify and explain two suitable methods the researcher could use to collect data from the residents about the new community development project. (10 Marks)

**QUESTION 5 (20 MARKS)**

- a) Discuss the concept of sampling in social research. (10 Marks)
- b) Differentiate between probability and non-probability sampling methods (10 Marks)

**QUESTION 6 (20 MARKS)**

Write a clear description **any two terms** listed below and provide three suitable examples for each.

- a) Literature review (10 Marks)
- b) Target population (10 Marks)
- c) Variable (10 Marks)
- d) Data (10 Marks)
- e) Qualitative research (10 Marks)