

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

FIRST SEMESTER 2025/2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

THIRD YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE
OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CRIMINOLOGY AND
SECURITY STUDIES

CRSS 315: RESEARCH METHODS IN CRIMINOLOGY

STREAM: B.A. CRSS

TIME: 2 HRS

DAY: THURSDAY [14.30 P.M-16.30 P.M]

DATE: 5/02/2026

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF FOUR (4) PAGES

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR SAYS SO.

Instructions: Answer all questions in **SECTION A** and any **TWO** in **SECTION B**

SECTION A (30 MARKS)

QUESTION ONE

- (a) State FIVE questions a researcher must answer by studying the existing literature **(5 Marks)**
- (b) Differentiate between the core beliefs systems of the Positivism paradigm and the Interpretivism/Constructivism paradigm regarding the nature of reality **(6 Marks)**
- (c) Describe the required structure of the Statement of the Problem section within a research proposal **(4 Marks)**
- (d) Distinguish between a Theoretical Gap and a Contextual/Population Gap in research **(4 Marks)**
- (e) List FIVE reasons why a Double-Barreled Question violates the core principle of Clarity, Simplicity, and unambiguity in instrument design **(5 Marks)**
- (f) Differentiate between Descriptive Statistics and Inferential Statistics in quantitative data analysis **(6 Marks)**

SECTION B (40 MARKS)

QUESTION TWO

The Laikipia County Police Commander wants to test if a new "Community Patrols App" reduces reported cases of livestock theft. The Commander selects two existing police stations in the county: Station A and Station B.

1. Station A (Treatment Group): The 25 police officers here are given the new "Community Patrols App" to coordinate their shifts and share real-time tips with local wananchi (citizens).
2. Station B (Control Group): The 25 police officers here continue using the old system of radio communication only.

The Commander tracks the number of livestock theft incidents reported to each station for six months. The Commander argues, "Since we have two groups, this is a perfect experiment!"

- (i) Identify the specific Quantitative Research Design being used in this scenario **(3 Marks)**
- (ii) Explain THREE reasons why, despite the Commander's belief, this design is not considered a true experiment **(6 Marks)**

- (iii) After six months, the researcher collects the average number of livestock theft incidents for both Station A and Station B. Identify the most appropriate Inferential Statistical Test the researcher should use to compare the average theft rates between Station A and Station B **(3 Marks)**
- (iv) Explain FOUR main purposes of this statistical test **(8 Marks)**

QUESTION THREE

A Criminology student aims to understand the "lived experience of cumulative trauma" among female detectives working in major crimes units. Given the highly sensitive and confidential nature of the topic, and the difficulty in accessing this small, specialized group, the student decides to initially interview two prominent, open female detectives and then ask them to recommend other peers for the study.

- (a) Identify the most suitable Qualitative Research Design for studying the "lived experience" of cumulative trauma among these detectives **(3 Marks)**
- (b) Discuss two reasons why Inductive Reasoning (where theory emerges from the data) is the appropriate philosophical approach for this specific study, rather than testing a pre-existing theory **(4 Marks)**
- (c) Identify the two specific Purposeful Sampling Techniques the student is proposing to use in this study to gather information-rich data from this small, hard-to-access group **(4 Marks)**
- (d) In qualitative research, the researcher is the main instrument. Explain the concept of Reflexivity as it applies to the student conducting this study **(4 Marks)**
- (e) State five reasons why the student's positionality is a crucial consideration when collecting and interpreting the sensitive data on officer trauma **(5 Marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

A Criminology student is writing Chapter 2 (Literature Review) for a proposal titled: "The Influence of Social Media Exposure on Cyber bullying Rates among High School Students in Nakuru county." The student's current draft has four pages summarizing different theories of Adolescent Development and Deviance. This is followed by six pages detailing an author-by-author list of 15 global studies on the general use of TikTok and Instagram by teenagers. The student's literature review is currently weak.

- (a) Mention FOUR mistakes the student is making by presenting the work as an "author-by-author Summary" **(4 Marks)**
- (b) The study focuses on a specific cause among a specific group of High School Students in Nakuru County concerning a familiar problem

- (i) Identify the TWO main study variables in the research title **(4 Marks)**
- (ii) Identify the most likely Type of Research Gap the student should argue to justify why this study must be done in Nakuru County specifically **(4 Marks)**

- (c) Using a diagram, draw the Conceptual Framework for this research representing the expected cause-and-effect relationships between the variables identified **(8 Marks)**

QUESTION FIVE

A research student wants to create a simple "Police Stress Scale" to measure how much job stress patrol officers feel. The scale uses 10 statements (like "I feel burned out at the end of my shift") and officers mark their answer on a 5-point rating scale (1 = {Strongly Disagree} to 5 = {Strongly Agree}). To make sure the scale is a good, trustworthy tool, the student performs two specific checks:

1. The student gives the exact same scale to a group of 40 officers in the first week of March and then gives the same scale to the same 40 officers two weeks later.
 2. The student calculates a score called Cronbach's Alpha to see if all 10 statements consistently measure the same general idea of "stress."
- (a) Briefly explain the two types of reliability checks being performed by the researcher in the numbered checks above **(4 Marks)**
 - (b) To check the validity of the new "Police Stress Scale," the researcher plans to compare its scores with two other known measures:
 - (i) How would the researcher use a measure of "Job Dissatisfaction" (a concept known to be related to stress) to test Convergent Validity **(3 Marks)**
 - (ii) How would the researcher use a measure of "Officer Height" (a concept known to be unrelated to stress) to test Discriminant (Divergent) Validity **(3 Marks)**
 - (c) Briefly explain THREE challenges of testing reliability and TWO advantages of testing validity **(10 Marks)**