

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

FIRST SEMESTER 2025/2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

FOURTH YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE
OF SCIENCE IN ECONOMICS & STATISTICS

ECON 412: ECONOMICS RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

STREAM: BSC (ECON STAT)

TIME: 2 HRS

DAY: FRIDAY [8.30 A.M-10.30 A.M]

DATE: 30/01/2026

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF FOUR (4) PAGES

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR SAYS SO.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer Question ONE (compulsory) and any other TWO Questions. Question ONE carries 30 marks while the rest of the Questions carry 20 marks each.

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Explain the link among research, data and theory. **(3 marks)**
- b) Explain three characteristics of a good theory. **(6 marks)**
- c) Distinguish between dependent variable and independent variable as used in cause-effect studies. **(2 marks)**
- d) The following is an excerpt of a problem statement from a research proposal,

“The Nakuru Water Supply Services Company (NAWASSCO) has made concerted effort to supply piped water for Nakuru County. One of the company’s development goals is to alleviate shortage of piped water in the county. However, estimates indicate that currently, only about 40% of the county’s population has access to piped water, while coverage varies among sub-counties. Subukia Sub- County is considered to have a shortage of piped water supply. The purpose of this study is to determine the availability of piped water supply in subukia Sub- County.”

From the foregoing problem statement, state four specific objectives of the study.

- (4 marks)**
- e) Distinguish between conceptual research and empirical research. **(5 marks)**
- f) Research methods and research methodology mean the same thing. True or false? Justify your answer. **(5 marks)**
- g) Briefly discuss qualitative approach to research. **(5 marks)**

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Your application for consideration for Young Professional Programme offered by Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) is accepted. As a member of the Macroeconomic Research Division, your first assignment is to conduct comprehensive empirical research for the purpose of writing a Working Paper. Discuss the research process, starting from the first stage to the last one. **(20 marks)**

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) A good research design should start with literature review. Discuss the importance of literature review to research. **(12 marks)**
- b) Discuss four critical components of a good research problem statement. **(8 marks)**

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Discuss the following types of research:

- i) Applied research. **(5 marks)**
 - ii) Basic research. **(5 marks)**
 - iii) Qualitative research. **(5 marks)**
 - iv) Quantitative research. **(5 marks)**
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QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) Most research consultant firms prefer using sampling methods to census method during data collection. Explain possible reasons for their preference. **(14 marks)**
- b) Distinguish between primary data and secondary data. **(6 marks)**