



GRETSA UNIVERSITY - THIKA

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS JANUARY-APRIL 2025 SEMESTER

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION [ARTS]

COURSE CODE: BECT 300

**COURSE TITLE: RESEARCH METHODS FOR SOCIAL
SCIENCES**

DATE: APRIL 2025

TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. SECTION A IS **COMPULSORY**.
2. SECTION B: ANSWER ANY OTHER **TWO** QUESTIONS.
3. **DO NOT** WRITE ANYTHING ON THIS QUESTION PAPER AS IT WILL BE AN EXAM IRREGULARITY.
4. ALL ROUGH WORK SHOULD BE AT THE BACK OF YOUR ANSWER BOOKLET AND CROSSED OUT.

CAUTION: *All exam rooms are under CCTV surveillance during the examination period.*

SECTION A: COMPULSORY

Question One

- a) Provide the meaning of the following terms:
- i. Research [1 Mark]
 - ii. Educational research [1 Mark]
 - iii. Research design [1 Mark]
- b) Provide one reason for having a well-defined research problem. [1 Mark]
- c) Explain one role of a conceptual framework in research. [2 Marks]
- d) Explain any five characteristics of a good educational research. [10 Marks]
- e) Describe any five ethical principles that should be taken into account when carrying out research. [10 Marks]
- f) Give two reasons why the chosen sample size from the entire population should not be too small. [2 Marks]
- g) Describe any two non-probability sampling techniques that a researcher can use in his/her research. [4 Marks]

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

Question Two

- a) Explain any five purposes of carrying out literature review as a researcher. [10 Marks]
- b) Describe five advantages of using a questionnaire as a data collection instrument. [10 Marks]

Question Three

- a) Discuss six factors that the researcher should consider in the selection of the data collection method. [10 Marks]
- b) Students of Grets University would like to carry out a study in the neighbouring primary schools.
- i. Suggest an appropriate topic for the study. [2 Marks]
 - ii. Describe any four instruments that the students are likely to use for data collection. [8 Marks]

Question Four

- a) The researcher must understand the research process for him/her to conduct an effective research. Discuss six of these key steps. [12 Marks]
- b) Make brief notes on the following types of educational research. [8 Marks]
- i. Descriptive Survey [2 Marks]
 - ii. Experimental research [2 Marks]
 - iii. Historical research [2 Marks]
 - iv. Case Study [2 Marks]

Question Five

- a) Illustrate why pilot studies should be routinely incorporated into the research. [10 Marks]
- b) Explain why data presentation is important in any research. [10 Marks]