INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY - (B.A PROGRAMMES)

Date: December, 2022.
Time Allowed: Three Hours

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer ALL Questions.
2. Be brief, precise and to the point.
3. Write your Name and SIN number clearly.
4. Handwriting should be very clear, and readable.
5. Name the questions attempted and number them accordingly

QUESTION ONE: RESEARCH PROCESS AND PROPOSAL WRITING (20 Marks)

Scholarship on agricultural productivity has been anchored on two theses with enormous impacts, both focused on the relationship between farming and population. In 1798, British clergyman Thomas Malthus argued for an intrinsic imbalance between rates of population increase and food production, concluding that it was the fate of human numbers to be checked by 'misery and vice' generally in the form of starvation and war. An Essay on the Principle of Population (Malthus 1798) infused popular and scientific thought with a particular model of agricultural change, in which a generally inelastic agricultural sector characteristically operated at the highest level allowed by available technology. In 1965, Danish agricultural economist Ester Boserup claimed to upend this model of agriculture by arguing that, particularly in 'primitive' agricultural systems, farmers tended to produce well below the maximum because this allowed greater ***agricultural efficiency*** *(output:input ratio). She maintained that production was intensified [****agricultural intensification****], additional* ***technology adopted*** *mainly when forced by population, and that* ***excessive population growth*** *caused more* ***labour supply*** *and hence* ***agricultural productivity****.*

Each model is quite simple, dangerously oversimplified; many would now argue—but they provide invaluable starting points from which to address the complexities of agricultural change.

Ministry of Agriculture seeks to study the phenomenon of agricultural change and productivity in relation with population increase in Zambia; based on the 1965 Ester Boserup theory highlighted above;

i. State any two research objectives to study the phenomenon of agricultural change and productivity in Zambia.
ii. State any two research questions based on the objectives mentioned above
iii. State two hypotheses for this study
iv. Develop a conceptual framework for the phenomenon above
v. Briefly, explain the key steps to be undertaken in the research process for the phenomenon mentioned above.

Research proposal: Write short notes on key elements to consider in the following selected sections of a research proposal for the phenomenon mentioned above.

i. Statement of the problem
ii. Objectives
iii. Research design
iv. Sampling design
v. Data collection methods

QUESTION TWO: PHILOSOPHY OF RESEARCH (20 Marks)

Whether you are consciously aware of them or not, at every stage in your research you will make a number of ontological, epistemological and axiological assumptions (Burrell and Morgan, 1979).

QUESTION: Fill in the table below to show the application of ontological, epistemological and axiological assumptions on each of the philosophies mentioned below.

Assumption Types	Positivism: [Natural Science]	Interpretivism: [Social Science]
Ontology What is the nature of reality? What is the world like? [Ontological philosophical assumptions]*		
Epistemology What is considered acceptable legitimate knowledge? What constitutes good quality data? What kinds of contribution to knowledge can be made?		
Axiology What is the role of values in research? How would you deal with the values of research participants?		
Typical Methods What are the typical methods used?		

technology adopted

QUESTION THREE: RESEARCH DESIGNS AND SAMPLING METHODS (20 Marks)

Identify and briefly explain the appropriate research design for each of the following social research phenomena, and show their implementation respectively. Provide practical assumptions in order to support your answer.

Qualitative research:

1. A study [in-depth analysis] of divorce cases in a given well defined high density area

2. A study on study ways of life, cultural practices and customs among the seven major ethnic groups in Zambia

3. A study to build a theory explaining the phenomenon of type of personality and religious choice of an individual

4. A study on community traditional child birth practices that are probably causing infant mortality

5. A study based on a new phenomenon [*unknown type of fever causing deaths*] emerging in a population
   a. What sampling method would you consider appropriate for this particular study

Quantitative research-Experiments and Surveys:

1. A study to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Sondashi Formula medicine in treating HIV/AIDS condition among patients [clinical trials]

2. A study to verify the association between maternal smoking during pregnancy and low birth weight of infants

3. A study on the effectiveness of a proposed anti-biotic in treating plant bacterial infections

4. A study on the effects of alcohol consumption levels on cirrhosis of the liver within high and low density areas.

5. A study [An opinion poll] to project probable results of a general election in Zambia
   a. What sampling method would you consider appropriate for this particular study