MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

REGULAR UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2018/2019 ACADEMIC YEAR
THIRD YEAR SECOND SEMESTER

SCHOOL OF TOURISM & NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
BACHELOR OF ARTS (GEOGRAPHY) AND BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

COURSE CODE: GEO 3229
COURSE TITLE: RESEARCH METHODS AND FIELD

COURSE IN GEOGRAPHY

DATE: 25TH APRIL, 2019
TIME: 0830 - 1030 HRS
INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **ALL** questions in Section A, and any **TWO** questions in Section B.
Use illustrations where appropriate. A simple calculator required during this examination. Borrowing of any materials from other candidates is strictly not allowed.

This paper consists of 3 printed pages. Please turn over
SECTION A (ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS)

Question One
(a) Explain two characteristics that makes a project geographical. (4 marks)
(b) Give operational definitions of the following terms
   i. Research design (1 mark)
   ii. Hawthorne effect (1 mark)
   iii. Conceptual framework (1 mark)
   iv. Gantt chart (1 mark)
(c) Read the article, “Learning not for the faint-hearted in dusty, makeshift classrooms”, attached herewith that was obtained from one Daily Newspaper, Daily Nation, Page 19, of 7th February 2018, and answer the questions that follow.
   i. Identify FOUR geographical areas of concern that are suggested by Ms. Florah Koech in this article (4 marks)
   ii. Develop of one the areas of concern you have indicated above into a description of a researchable geographic problem. (2 marks)
   iii. Describe dependent variable(s) of the selected problem. (2 marks)
   iv. Describe the Independent variable(s). (2 marks)
   v. State two SMART objectives of your proposed study and explain the ‘smartness’ of each (4 marks)
(d) Table 1: Annual crime statistics (Source: Kenya Police Force)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/No</th>
<th>Category of Crime</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Stealing</td>
<td>11986</td>
<td>13797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Breakings</td>
<td>6453</td>
<td>7325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Other penal code offences</td>
<td>4956</td>
<td>5726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>2843</td>
<td>3262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Vehicle and other thefts</td>
<td>1365</td>
<td>1768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>2239</td>
<td>2641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Economic crimes</td>
<td>2662</td>
<td>3036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Theft by servant</td>
<td>2591</td>
<td>2889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Other offences against persons</td>
<td>20,012</td>
<td>20,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Theft of stock</td>
<td>2244</td>
<td>2269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Criminal damage</td>
<td>3327</td>
<td>3345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Dangerous drugs</td>
<td>5081</td>
<td>4649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Offences against morality</td>
<td>4817</td>
<td>4703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Offences involving police officers</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Corruption</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Traffic Offences</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Offences involving tourist</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1 above was obtained by a researcher from a Kenya Police Force report. It gives an overview of the annual statistics of cases of crimes reported to police stations during the years 2010 and 2011 in Kenya.

i. Identify the two crime categories that had the highest percentage increase (2 marks)

ii. Draw a suitable diagram to show the major features of the tabulated data. (2 marks)

iii. Describe the general features of reported crimes in the country during the year 2011 (2 marks)

iv. From these statistics give one suitable recommendation targeted at one of the stakeholders in the system. (2 marks)

[Total 30 marks]

SECTION B (ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS)

Question two

The equation below is simple linear regression model with Q and R as variables.

\[ Q = \alpha_1 R + \alpha_2 \]

Explain using hypothetical data the graphical data analysis techniques that a researcher could use to obtain the values of:

(a) Coefficient \( \alpha_1 \) (4 marks)  
(b) Coefficient \( \alpha_2 \). (6 marks)

Question three

(a) What is a ‘target population’ (2 marks)

(b) What is an ‘accessible population’ (2 marks)

(c) Explain SIX factors that usually affect the representativeness of a sample in survey research. (6 marks)

Question four

(a) Name four organizations in Kenya that should be included in the programme of any integrated field course in geography. Give a justification for each. (4 marks)

(b) During integrated field course visits geography students usually experience several hurdles and challenges that impact
negatively on the quality of their field work reports. Describe SIX strategies that public universities could put in place to reduce them. 

(6 marks)

**Question five**

(a) Explain how a researcher could take care of any TWO of the following in an undergraduate research project:
i. Plagiarism (2 marks)
ii. Validity of instruments (2 marks)
iii. Language barriers (2 marks)
iv. Reliability of instruments (2 Marks)
(b) Some travelers and tourists use blogs as a diary to document their experiences. The information documented could be quite personal. Entries could even include how the individual coped with an illness or embarrassing experiences. Blogs are self-published and therefore open access for any researcher. Discuss SIX ethical issues involved in the use of such blogs as a data source. (6 marks)