



JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS AND INNOVATIVE SYSTEMS
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
4TH YEAR 1ST SEMESTER 2018/2019 ACADEMIC YEAR
MAIN CAMPUS

COURSE CODE: IIS 3414

COURSE TITLE: INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH

EXAM VENUE:

STREAM: BIS

DATE:

EXAM SESSION:

TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Answer Question 1 (Compulsory) and ANY other TWO questions**
- 2. Candidates are advised not to write on the question paper**
- 3. Candidates must hand in their answer booklets to the invigilator while in the examination room**

QUESTION 1 [30 MARKS]

Distance education via online platforms is a rapidly growing method of education delivery due to its convenience, wide reach, relatively low cost, and ability to support the achievement of learning objectives. Whether the platform is Blackboard, WebCT, Moodle, Angel, or some other learning management system, online education utilizes a variety of common learning tools including discussion boards, drop boxes, automated testing, and wikis. Chief among these tools are live online sessions. The Live online sessions may be delivered in virtual classrooms from Adobe Connect, Elluminate, GoToMeeting, Wimba, or other software programs. Regardless of the software used, student attendance at live online sessions, especially optional ones, can be unpredictable at best. It is a common complaint among the online faculty at a university in the south that many, oftentimes most, of their students do not attend the live online sessions. This study will address the problem of low student attendance at nonmandatory virtual classroom meetings in online college courses. Offir, Lev, and Bezalel (2008) found the interaction level in a synchronous class, also known as web conferencing, to be a significant factor in the effectiveness of the class. Other researchers describe “the power of a synchronous online system to empower students in conversation and expression (McBrien, Jones, & Cheng, 2009). According to Skylar (2009), “research concerning the use of newer multimedia technologies, such as interactive synchronous web conferencing tools, is in its infancy and needs further and continued study” (p. 82). McBrien, Jones, and Cheng (2009) stated that “more studies are needed to explore students’ perceptions of the synchronous learning experience.” Answer the following questions based on the information above:

- a) Propose a title for this study. **(2 marks)**
- b) Identify the research problem **(3 marks)**
- c) State the purpose of this study **(3 marks)**
- d) State any three research Objectives **(6 marks)**
- e) State any three research questions **(6 marks)**
- f) Discuss the research gap **(2 marks)**
- g) Briefly discuss the methodology in detail including sampling and research techniques and procedures you would use. **(8 marks)**

QUESTION 2 [20 MARKS]

Research trends in Information Systems have focused on either design research (artifacts) or analytical (empirical or behavioral). Using an illustration discuss the stages of research in both design research (R&D) and (analytical or behavioral) research in IS. You MUST clearly document the stages in each category. **(20 marks)**

QUESTION 3 [20 MARKS]

- a) An abstract allows you to elaborate upon each major aspect of the project and helps readers decide whether they want to read the rest of the project. Therefore, enough key information must be included to make the abstract useful to someone who may want to examine your work. Briefly discuss the important things to include in an abstract? **(4 marks)**
- b) One of the most challenging issues in academic writing is locating useful sources in your research. You will encounter these when you begin working on your thesis. Briefly discuss at least *six* useful sources of material for your research. Please be specific. **(6 marks)**
- c) Briefly discuss why it is important to include the “Discussion Section” in research paper (at least 3 reasons). **(3 marks)**
- d) Identify and discuss any seven pitfalls to avoid when writing the “Results” section of a research paper. **(7 marks)**

QUESTION 4 [20 MARKS]

The goal of a research proposal is to present and justify the need to study a research problem and to present the practical ways in which the proposed study should be conducted. The design elements and procedures for conducting the research are governed by standards within the predominant discipline in which the problem resides, so guidelines for research proposals are more exacting and less formal than a general project proposal.

- a. Research proposal must address three basic questions. Discuss **(3 marks)**
- b. Identify and discuss four questions that should be addressed by the “Introduction”. **(4 marks)**
- c. A well articulated background information is important in understanding your research proposal. Identify any five key points that must be addressed here. **(5 marks)**
- d. Briefly discuss any three mistakes you should avoid and that is likely to lead to failure to successfully complete your proposal on time. **(3 marks)**
- e. Briefly discuss any five questions to ask in order to address the potential implications of your study. **(5 marks)**

QUESTION 5 [20 MARKS]

- a) You have been asked by the principle of neighbouring high school to give a lecture to form four students on the “research process.” Briefly discuss the key points you would include in your presentation. **(10 marks)**
- b) During your internship secured immediately after graduation you come across a group of colleagues who are arguing about the differences between quantitative, qualitative and design research. One of them requests you to intervene and help them understand and

clearly articulate the differences considering your level of education. Use a table to summarize the main differences between the three. **(10 marks)**