



**JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SCIENCES**

**FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION FOR THE  
DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE  
AGRICULTURE**

**2019/2020 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**REGULAR**

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**COURSE CODE: AFB 5111**

**COURSE TITLE: Research Methods**

**EXAM VENUE:                      STREAM: MSc. Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture**

**DATE: 9/09/19**

**EXAM SESSION: 9.00 – 12.00NOON**

**TIME: 3 HOURS**

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**Instructions:**

- 1. Answer THREE questions.**
- 2. Question ONE is Compulsory**
- 3. Candidates are advised NOT to write on the question paper.**
- 4. Candidates must hand in their answer booklets to the invigilator while in the examination room.**

1. a) Briefly explain the different philosophical world views in research **(6 marks)**  
b) what factors would you consider when formulating qualitative research questions? **(4 marks)**  
c) What is the importance of literature review in research? **(4 marks)**  
d) State briefly any three common sampling strategies in qualitative research **(6 marks)**
2. a) Examine the similarities and differences among grounded theory designs, ethnographic designs, and narrative designs. **(10 marks)**  
b) Why might there be considerable overlaps among these categories? **(10 marks)**
3. Certain positivists argue that qualitative research is not a valid type of research because it lacks the rigour as in quantitative research. Examine this statement using examples drawn from the process of data collection and data analysis in qualitative research **(20 marks)**
4. A mid-sized farm spent a small fortune on a new project of breeding insects for food and feed that went horribly wrong. You have been hired as a consultant to determine what happened in order to prevent a similar failure in the future. You visit the farm management and obtain a list of key personnel involved with the project. You decide to carry out an inquiry on this issue.  
Discuss the methodology, including the design, methods of data collection and analysis you would use for this inquiry and justify your choices **(20 marks)**
5. a) Examine the process of conducting action research as a qualitative research design **(10 marks)**  
b) Why is action research described as empowering, emancipating and liberating? **(10 marks)**