



“Investing in Africa’s Future”

COLLEGE OF HEALTH, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL SCIENCES

NESN 200: RESEARCH METHODS

END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION

NOVEMBER 2025

LECTURER: MS M. C. KUREHWATIRA

DURATION: 3 HRS

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer all questions in Section A and any **three** from Section B
Section A carries **40 marks** and each question in Section B carries
20 marks.

Materials: Calculator

SECTION A ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS [40 MARKS]

Question 1

- a. Discuss, using relevant examples, the role of environmental research in Africa. **[10 marks]**
- b. Discuss using examples, the ethical concerns in environmental management research. **[10 marks]**
- c. Describe the purpose of a literature review in the context of environmental research. **[10 marks]**
- d. Describe the key steps involved in conducting a comprehensive literature review. **[10 marks]**

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS [60 MARKS]

Question 2

Explain the concept of the "Research Onion" as proposed by Saunders et al. (2007). In your answer, describe each layer of the onion. **[20 marks]**

Question 3

Describe five data collection tools used in academic research highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of each tool. **[20 marks]**

Question 4

Discuss, using relevant examples five factors that will guide you when selecting a research problem. **[20 marks]**

Question 5

- a) Discuss the importance of referencing in academic research. **[10 marks]**
- b) Compare and contrast qualitative and quantitative methods of environmental data collection, highlighting their strengths, limitations, and appropriate contexts of use. **[10 marks]**

Question 6

Describe five sampling techniques commonly used in academic research, highlighting one advantage and one disadvantage of each technique. **[20 marks]**

END OF EXAMINATION PAPER