



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
2025_2 EXAMINATIONS

SUBJECT TITLE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

SUBJECT CODE: ECO311

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER QUESTIONS ONE AND ANY OTHER THREE QUESTIONS.

QUESTION 1

- (a). How does identifying a specific problem or gap in existing knowledge contribute to the formulation of a research question, and what impact does this have on the overall research process? **(10marks)**
 - (b). How does defining a problem enhance the credibility and significance of research findings? **(10marks)**
 - (c). What are the common challenges in choosing a research topic, and how can they be addressed? **(5marks)**
- (25MARKS)**

QUESTION 2

- (a). What is the primary purpose of conducting a literature review in research methodology? **(5marks)**
 - (b). What are the key steps in developing a conceptual framework for a research study? **(5marks)**
 - (c). What is the primary purpose of data analysis in research? **(5marks)**
- (15marks)**

QUESTION 3

- (a). Discuss the importance of the research problem in a research proposal? **(10marks)**
 - (b). How does a research project timeline contribute to successful project planning? **(5marks)**
- (15MARKS)**

QUESTION 4

- (a). What are the common referencing systems used in academic project writing? **(10marks)**
 - (b). What are the ethical challenges researchers face when dealing with vulnerable populations? **(5mark)**
- (15marks)**

QUESTION 5

- (a). What is the difference between qualitative and quantitative research methods? **(10marks)**
 - (b). Discuss the purpose of using a sampling technique in research, and what are the main types of sampling methods? **(5mark)**
- (15marks)**