



Faculty of Social Sciences - University of Kelaniya

MA/MSSc Course 2013

MA/MSSc Degree Examination (October /November 2015)

Economics

ECON 53115 / ECON M 06 (English Medium) - Research Methods for Economics

Answer any Five (05) questions.

No. of Questions : 07

Time : 03 hours

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01. (i) Give your ideas regarding the origin and evolution of research. (10 marks)
- (ii) Using examples, explain why social scientists follow the "Scientific method" in their research.
02. (i) Using examples, explain the role of "Four Principles " in social sciences research. (10 marks)
- (ii) What is meant by "research ethics"? Explain the importance of following research ethics in a research study. (10 marks)
03. "Formulation of the research problem is an important step in any research study. However, the identification and formulation of the research problem may be a challenging task". Explain. (20 marks)

04. (i) Distinguish between quantitative data and qualitative data. (06 marks)
- (ii) Describe the characteristics of qualitative research. (06 marks)
- (iii) Describe the various steps involved in the research process. (08 marks)
05. (i) What are the main objectives of the sampling theory ? (04 marks)
- (ii) Briefly describe the various methods of primary data collection. (06 marks)
- (ii) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each of the methods you have described in part (ii). (10 marks)
06. (i) Briefly explain the principle steps in a sample survey. (07 marks)
- (ii) What is meant by a hypothesis? (02 marks)
- Explain how a hypothesis is important in an applied research. (02 marks)
- Describe how a hypothesis is formulated in research study. (04 marks)
- (iii) Explain the differences between probability sampling and non-probability sampling and describe the advantages and disadvantages of the two. (05 marks)
07. (a) Suppose that you are assigned to conduct a sample survey on the behavior of drug addicts.
- (i) Identify the most appropriate sampling method for this survey? Explain why this sampling method is appropriate to draw the sample. (03 marks)
- (ii) Explain how a sample is drawn through this sampling method. (05 marks)
- (iii) Explain the most appropriate method of data collection in this survey. (02 marks)

(b) Briefly describe the following sampling methods and describe their advantages and disadvantages.

- (i) Simple random sampling method
- (ii) Stratified random sampling method
- (iii) Quota sampling method
- (iv) Purposive sampling method

(10 marks)