

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
FACULTY OF COMMERCE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

**PROGRAMME: MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PURCHASING AND SUPPLY CHAIN
MANAGEMENT**

EXAMINATION

JUN 2023

COURSE: Research Methods and dissertation writing skills (SCM 507)

DURATION: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

1. Answer any four (4) questions.
2. Begin a new answer on a fresh page.
3. No cell phones are allowed in the examination room.

Question 1

- a) Discuss the reasons why it is important to write a research proposal before engaging in any field research exercise. (10marks)
- b) A study is conducted to compare performance characteristics of a device to its superior version.

Suggest, with justification the type of research, hypothesis, statistical test and types of error applicable for this investigation. (15marks)

(25Marks)

Question 2

Discuss the difference between quantitative and qualitative research including data collection tools and data analysis methods of both research techniques.

(25Marks)

Question 3

- a) Explain is literature review in a research proposal rated superficial relative to that in the final report? (15marks)
 - b) Explain why outcomes of a research must be disseminated. (10marks)
- (25Marks)**

Question 4

- a) Differentiate between the following terms as used in research
 - i) Experimental research and Ex post facto research (2 marks)
 - ii) Pure research and applied research (2 marks)
 - iii) Reliability and validity (2 marks)
 - iv) Antecedent variables and Intervening variables (2 marks)
 - v) Cross-sectional research and Longitudinal research (2 marks)
- b) Discuss the various probabilistic sampling techniques that a researcher may use to select a sample from the population giving an advantage and disadvantage for each. (15 marks)

(25Marks)

Question 5

- a) Briefly explain five factors that should be taken into consideration by a researcher in selecting an appropriate method for data collection. (10 marks)

b) Discuss the various types of reliabilities and validity in research, clearly indicating the various techniques of estimating each. (15Marks)

Question 6

Present and justify the standard data presentation, interpretation and discussion process.

(25Marks)

END OF PAPER