

# **BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION**

## **FACULTY OF COMMERCE**

### **DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

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

### **EXAMINATION**

**JUN 2024**

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

**DURATION: 3 HOURS**

#### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

1. Section A is compulsory
2. Answer any three (3) questions from Section B.
3. Begin a new answer on a fresh page.
4. No cell phones are allowed in the examination room.

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#### **Section A (This section is compulsory)**

##### **Question 1**

- a) Briefly explain five characteristics of scientific research. (10marks)
- b) During the last two decades, there has been a dramatic change in the business environment. The trend towards complexity has increased the risk associated with business decisions, making it more important to have a sound information base.

In view of the above statement, discuss the role of research in today's organizations

(15marks)

(25Marks)

**Section B (Choose any 3 questions from this section)**

**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) Discuss the importance of literature review in a research proposal. (10marks)
- b) 'Justification of a research study lies in its ability to establish a research gap'. Explain possible research gaps which justify a research study. (15marks)  
**(25Marks)**

**Question 4**

- a) Discuss how the process of acquiring freely given informed consent from competent human subjects varies from that acquired from that which involving research subjects who are deemed incompetent. (10 marks)
- b) Explain the characteristics descriptors for research ethics committees that are fundamental to their role in research involving human participants. (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. (10marks)
- b) Discuss the various types of reliabilities and validity in research, clearly indicating the various techniques of estimating each. (15Marks)  
**(25Marks)**

**Question 6**

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.  
**(25Marks)**