

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) 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 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) 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)

Question 5

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

(25Marks)

Question 6

- 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)

END OF PAPER