

**BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION**

**FACULTY OF COMMERCE**

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ECONOMICS**

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY (MEC 503) (1)**

**EXAMINATION**

**DURATION: 3 HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

1. Answer four (4) questions
2. The paper carries six questions
3. All questions carry equal marks of 25 each
4. No cell-phones allowed in the examination room

**JUN 2024**

**Question 1**

- a) Explain why background of the study is important in research studies.

**[10 marks]**

- b) Critically evaluate the following research instrument given its purpose:

**[15 marks]**

**Tertiary Human Resources Gap Assessment Tool**

**Name of institution** .....

**Project** .....

**Overview**

This assessment tool is intended to solicit information about human resources gaps in tertiary institutions and programmes. The information gathered will be used for strategic planning purposes.

Core staff	Support staff

1. Staff complement .....

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2. Number of qualified/unqualified

Qualified staff	Temporary staff

3. Vacant posts (Any personnel gaps) .....

4. Specify gaps.....

5. Are the operations affected by personnel shortage? YES/NO

6. If Yes in 5 above, explain how .....

7. Any possibility of adding personnel YES/NO

8. If yes in 7 above, indicate numbers

qualified	unqualified

9. What anticipated value is going to be added by addition of staff in 8 above?

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10. Any in-house training or capacity building schedule in place YES/NO

11. If yes in 10 above how often are these scheduled? (tick appropriate box)

Quarterly	Half yearly	Yearly	Others (specify).....
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Name of informant .....

Post or Responsibility in the project .....

Interviewer ..... Date .....

### **Question 2**

- a) Explain the focus group discussion process as a modern research instrument in data collection. [15 marks]
- b) Evaluate why academics do not consider convenience sampling more often in their sampling procedures. [10 marks]

### **Question 3**

Justify the need for review of both theoretical and empirical literature. [25 marks]

### **Question 4**

- a) Compare and contrast between data presentation and data interpretation. [7 marks]
- b) Explain the importance of the methodology in the research report. [8 marks]
- c) Critically distinguish between primary and secondary data when carrying out a research. [10 marks]

### **Question 5**

Explain the importance of the following when carrying out a research:

- a) Research ethics [10 marks]
- b) Sampling [5 marks]
- c) Indexed journals [5 marks]
- d) Scope of the study [5 marks]

### **Question 6**

‘There has been a heated debate on the contents to include in a research report’. As a senior researcher, advise the organization on the standard contents of a research report.

[25 marks]

**END OF PAPER**