

# University of Fort Hare

Degree Examinations

November 2017

**AGE 406 AGE506 AGE604**

**Research Methods in Agricultural Economics**

Time: 3 Hours

Marks: 100

This paper consists of one page, excluding the cover page

Internal Examiner:

Prof B J Bester

External Examiner:

Mrs CL Muchopa

**Instructions:**

Answer ALL the questions

Note the different marks allocation between questions..

**QUESTION 1 (40 Marks)**

Provide the following information about your proposed research project:

- The title of your proposed research project
- Brief background and problem statement
- The overall objective of your research project
- For each specific objective, state the following briefly:
  - What the specific objective is
  - What you expect to find (hypothesis) – if relevant
  - What data you will require for this specific objective
  - How you plan to collect the data
  - How you plan to interpret (analyse) the data
- The delimitation of the project

**QUESTION 2 (20 Marks; 5 marks each)**

- a) What are the main differences between a Seminar and the Literature Review for a research project?
- b) What do we mean by *synthesis* in the writing of the literature review?
- c) What *errors of context* are most often made in a Literature Review? Give examples
- d) How would you determine the credibility of information found on the Internet?

**QUESTION 3 (20 Marks; 5 marks each)**

- a) Differentiate between *Primary Data* and *Secondary Data* in research. Be specific, for example, do the population numbers, area, rainfall and temperature data in your study area constitute primary data, or secondary data, or both, or neither?
- b) Differentiate between a *longitudinal* (time series) study and a *cross-sectional* research design. Give examples.
- c) Differentiate between *descriptive* and *explanatory* research.
- d) Suppose a research project has the title "*Poverty levels of rural households in the Eastern Cape: The case of Nkonkobr Local Municipality*". Does this mean that a case study design will be used? Give reasons for your opinion, and rephrase the title if necessary.

**QUESTION 4 (20 Marks)**

Identify and explain the *ethical considerations* that you must observe in conducting survey research., as well as the *practical steps* that you would follow to ensure that you comply with the ethical requirements.

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