



# THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA

**A. M. E. C. E. A**

**MAIN EXAMINATION**

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**JANUARY – APRIL 2018 TRIMESTER**

**INSTITUTE FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**REGULAR PROGRAMME**

**MRI 514: METHODS AND TECHNIQUES FOR RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC WRITING**

**Date: APRIL 2018**

**Duration: 3 Hours**

**INSTRUCTIONS: Answer Questions ONE and any other TWO Question**

- Q1. a) State your provisional Master of Arts research title and explain its focus  
**(4 Marks)**
- b) Assess the main sources of a research problem and topic and explain aspects you must consider when stating a research problem for a Master's thesis/dissertation  
**(16 Marks)**
- c) State at least **three** of your own provisional research objectives and provide operational definition of the variables implied in the objectives  
**(10 Marks)**
- Q2. Discuss the reasons that social science and humanities researchers consider in choosing between qualitative or quantitative designs. Give relevant examples to illustrate your arguments  
**(15 Marks)**
- Q3. a) Use relevant examples to briefly examine the concepts of validity and reliability in social science research  
**(7.5 Marks)**
- b) Explain at least **three** potentially significant threats to the validity of the research you intend to undertake for your Master of Arts thesis and point out how you will mitigate them  
**(7.5 Marks)**
- Q4. Evaluate the use of unstructured interviews with reference to a research problem of your own choice  
**(15 Marks)**
- Q5. Analyse the issues that call for awareness about the ethics of social research. Give relevant examples  
**(15 Marks)**

Q6.

**Either:**

- a) i) What do you understand by Data Analysis? **(6 Marks)**
- ii) Outline the main Strategies and techniques for managing and analysing quantitative data **(9 Marks)**

**OR:**

- i) What do you understand by study population and Target Population? **(3marks)**
- ii) With reference to notions of random sampling and purposive sampling, explain the advantages and disadvantages of qualitative and quantitative sampling techniques. **(12 Marks)**

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