

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE IN RECORDS AND ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT

PART II SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS APRIL 2014

IRA 2203 RESEARCH METHODS IN INFORMATION SCIENCE

TIME: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. QUESTION **ONE** IS COMPULSORY
2. ANSWER ANY OTHER **THREE** QUESTIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING
3. EACH QUESTION CARRIES **25 MARKS**

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1. Identify any research problem in the field of information science and draft a research proposal for submission to a prospective sponsor, articulating how you intend to conduct a scientific inquiry into the problem. Your proposal should contain all the key elements of a research proposal. [25 marks]

 2. a) Distinguish between quantitative and qualitative research. [15 marks]

b) Which of the two research paradigms do you find most appropriate in the conduct of information science research? Justify your answers. [10 marks]

 3. Draft a research ethics policy that can be adopted by information science researchers in the Faculty of Communication and Information Science at the National University of Science and Technology. [25 marks]

 4. Justify the need for a literature review in the conduct of scientific research. [25 marks]

5. (a) Explain any four probability sampling techniques that an information science researcher can employ when conducting research.

[16 marks]

(b) Explain the following non-probability sampling techniques and show when they can be applied in research.

(i) Purposive sampling

[3 marks]

(ii) Snow-ball sampling

[3 marks]

(iii) Convenience sampling

[3 marks]

6. Compare and contrast a survey research design and a case study research design, showing the most suitable in the conduct of information science research

[25 marks]

END OF PAPER