



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT / QUANTITY SURVEYING

RESEARCH SKILLS

BQS 2202

Main Examination Paper

February 2025

This examination paper consists of **Two (2)** pages.

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Total Marks: 100

Special Requirements: None

Examiner's Name: Mr B. Gaule and Mr. H Muzioreva

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Answer Question **One (1)** and any other **three (3)**

MARK ALLOCATION

QUESTION	MARKS
1.	25
2.	25
3.	25
4.	25
5.	25
TOTAL	100

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Question One (Compulsory)

- a) As a researcher, you have been tasked with investigating sustainable practices to reduce material waste and improve cost efficiency on the ongoing NUST construction projects. Explain the step-by-step process you would follow to conduct the research. **[25 marks]**

Question Two

- a) Discuss the following research philosophies in terms of their key principles and applicability to research:
- i. Interpretivism **[5 marks]**
 - ii. Positivism **[5 marks]**
 - iii. Pragmatism **[5 marks]**
- b) Explain any **five (5)** conditions that must be met when formulating a research problem. **[10 marks]**
[25 marks]

Question Three

- a) Discuss qualitative and quantitative research methods in terms of:
- i. Definition and purpose **[5 marks]**
 - ii. Data analysis techniques **[5 marks]**
 - iii. Strengths and limitations **[5 marks]**
- b) Discuss any **two (2)** situations where a mixed-method research design might be particularly used. **[10 marks]**
[25 marks]

Question Four

- a) List any **five (5)** types of literature review sources. **[5 marks]**
- b) Explain the basic steps of conducting a literature review. **[20 marks]**
[25 marks]

Question Five

- a) Describe any **five (5)** key ethical considerations in research. **[25 marks]**

END OF EXAMINATION