



**Riara School of International Relations & Diplomacy**

**SEPTEMBER -DECEMBER 2019 TERM**

**RIR 301: RESEARCH METHODS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**LECTURER: DR CELINE NIWEMAHORO**

**DATE: 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019**

**TIME: 2 HOURS**

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

Students are NOT permitted to write on the examination paper during reading time.  
This is a closed book examination. Text books/reference books/notes are not permitted.

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Write your ADMISSION NUMBER clearly on the cover of the answer booklet(s).
2. Answer Question ONE and ANY OTHER TWO questions.
3. Questions in all sections should be answered in answer booklet(s).
4. Marks allocated to each question are shown at the end of the question.
5. PLEASE start the answer to EACH question on a NEW PAGE.
6. Indicate the number of the questions answered on the cover of the answer booklet(s) in the order you answered them.
7. Write your answers in paragraph form unless stated otherwise.
8. Keep your phone(s) SWITCHED OFF at the front of the examination room.
9. Keep ALL bags and caps at the front of the examination room and do not refer to any unauthorized material before or during the course of the examination.
10. You are only allowed to leave the examination room 30 minutes to the end of the Examination.

## SECTION A: COMPULSORY (40 Marks)

### QUESTION ONE

Is there any difference between the following pairs of terms? If yes give two (2) differences

- a) Social/nonscientific research and scientific research
- b) Research problem and research objective
- c) Main objective and specific objectives
- d) Qualitative research and quantitative research
- e) Inductive and deductive reasoning
- f) Theory and hypothesis
- g) Research question and research objective
- h) Systematic and narrative literature review
  - i. Provide a research topic and display the dependent and independent variable from that topic
  - ii. From that same research topic, provide **one** main objective and **two** specific objectives
  - iii. From the same research topic, give **three** main subtitles that you can consider in your literature review
  - iv. List all important steps, in proper sequence, of writing a research report.

## SECTION B: CHOOSE TWO QUESTIONS (30 MARKS)

### QUESTION TWO

- a) Describe four (4) characteristics of a good research.
- b) The discipline of IR itself emerged from an attempt to understand the causes of war and peace in international politics. Do we really need to do research to understand this? (Two paragraphs-minimum)

1. Imagine that the annual population increases over a 10-year period are given in the table below:

Table: Population increase

Year	Increase from previous
1	53,377
2	52,170
3	67,000
4	90,332

5	72,681
6	65,226
7	76,777
8	83,657
9	77,753
10	82,892

- i. Calculate the mean annual population increase over a 10-year period.
- ii. Calculate the median annual population increase over a 10-year period
- iii. Between the mean and median you have calculated, which one is the better measure of tendency of the annual population increase over a 10-year period? WHY?

### QUESTION THREE

Suppose the ministry of education wants to develop some new policies to improve the quality of education in the private Universities in Kenya. They would wish to do a research check on the teaching quality OR on students' performance

- a) Propose a research topic for one of the possible studies that can be done to inform the policy makers
- b) What would be the population of this research study?
- c) What would you consider to be the sample for this particular study? Why?

### QUESTION FOUR

Forty students took a math test marked out of 10 points. Their results were as follows:

9, 10, 7, 8, 9, 6, 5, 9, 4, 7, 1, 7, 2, 7, 8, 5, 4, 3, 10, 7,  
3, 7, 8, 6, 9, 7, 4, 2, 3, 9, 4, 3, 7, 5, 5, 2, 7, 9, 7, 1

After calculating the mean and median, prepare a frequency table of the scores.

### QUESTION FIVE

Give two (2) reasons why we need to do referencing and citation in academic writings?

After giving the difference between the in-text citation and reference, explain the importance of each for the researcher or the reader