



MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2024/2025

FIRST YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN
EDUCATION

EMP 8101: QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHOD IN EDUCATION

DATE: JANUARY 2025

TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: *Answer Question ONE and any other THREE Questions.*

QUESTION ONE – (24 MARKS)

- a) Explain three areas that qualitative research in education focuses on. (6 Marks)
- b) Discuss two ways in which you can apply inductive reasoning when executing a qualitative research design in education. (4 Marks)
- c) Give two justifications of applying purposeful sampling in qualitative research. (4 Marks)
- d) Explain two points you would present in a discussion entitled “Assumptions of Qualitative research.” (4 Marks)
- e) Explain the reason why you may stop collecting more data in a grounded theory research. (2 Marks)
- f) Discuss two benefits that may accrue to you through active participation in ethnographic research. (4 Marks)

QUESTION TWO – (12 MARKS)

- a) Explain four benefits of applying qualitative research methods as a strategy of addressing problems in the education sector. (4 Marks)
- b) Explain four points you can advance in a debate on the rationale of carrying out qualitative research in education. (8 Marks)

QUESTION THREE – (12 MARKS)

- a) Explain four main objectives of carrying out action research in education. (4 Marks)
- b) Discuss the procedure you would follow when carrying out an ethnographic research in education. (8 Marks)

QUESTION FOUR - (12 MARKS)

- a) Explain two instances when you may apply snowball sampling design when conducting an education based research. (2 Marks)
- b) Discuss the steps you would follow when analyzing data from a focus group discussion. (10 Marks)

QUESTION FIVE – (12 MARKS)

- a) Distinguish between the terms phenomenology and hermeneutics in the context of qualitative research in education. (2 Marks)
- b) Discuss five ethical principles you will take into account when carrying out your PhD research. (10 Marks)