



ZIMBABWE

**MINISTRY OF HIGHER AND TERTIARY EDUCATION,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT**

**HIGHER EDUCATION EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
(HEXCO)**

NATIONAL DIPLOMA

IN

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND SECRETARIAL STUDIES

SUBJECT: Research Methods

PAPER NO: 500/15/S15

DURATION: 3 Hours

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2017 EXAMINATION

REQUIREMENTS

Calculator and List of formulae

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATE

- 1. Answer ANY FIVE (5) questions.**
- 2. Each question carries 20 marks**

This paper consists of 3 printed pages.

QUESTION 1

Evaluate the purpose of literature review in research. (20 marks)

QUESTION 2

- a) Explain any five (5) characteristics of a good topic/research problem. (10 marks)
- b) Briefly explain the following concepts as used in research.
 - i) Background to the study.
 - ii) Statement of the problem.
 - iii) Significance of the study.
 - iv) Hypothesis.
 - v) Delimitation (10 marks)

QUESTION 3

Write brief notes on the following phrases

- a) Exploratory research (4 marks)
- b) Predictive research (4 marks)
- c) Fundamental research (4 marks)
- d) Emphatic neutrality (4 marks)
- e) Descriptive research (4 marks)

QUESTION 4

- a) Identify any four competencies that must be possessed by an interviewer. (8 marks)
- b) Explain any six practical issues relating to focus groups. (12 marks)

QUESTION 5

Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the following research types.

- a) Basic research (5 marks)
- b) Action research (5 marks)
- c) Applied research (5 marks)
- d) Quantitative research (5 marks)

QUESTION 6

State and explain any five (5) characteristics of a good proposal.
(20 marks)

QUESTION 7

The following marks were obtained by 21 HND students in a research theory test.

73 60 65 68 74 63 74 78 58 57 79
67 42 74 76 36 53 56 46 74 73

Calculate the following for the above data

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| a) | Mean | (5 marks) |
| b) | Variance | (5 marks) |
| c) | Standard deviation | (3 marks) |
| d) | Pearson's measure of skewness and comment | (7 marks) |

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