

Course Code: T4P1/IDE-T4P1 (M) 2005

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2005

TITLE OF PAPER : **RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD**

COURSE CODE : **T4P1/IDE-T4P1**

TIME ALLOWED : **THREE (3) HOURS**

MARKS : **100**

INSTRUCTIONS : **1. ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS.**
2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

THIS QUESTION PAPER MUST NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

QUESTION 1

Do the world's religions have anything to say collectively to humanity as a whole? Support your views with pertinent examples selected from at least four living religious traditions.

QUESTION 2

Discuss any three distinguishing features of the so-called "primal religions" with particular reference to the living indigenous religions of North America.

QUESTION 3

"What is distinctive in Hinduism is the amount of attention it has devoted to identifying basic spiritual personality types and disciplines that are more likely to work for each. The result is a recognition, pervading the entire religion, that there are multiple paths to God, each calling for its distinctive mode of travel" (Hudson Smith). Discuss this statement.

QUESTION 4

Compare and contrast the lives and missions of Gautama Siddhartha "the Buddha" and Jesus "the Christ" of Nazareth.

QUESTION 5

Discuss the role and meaning of both Confucianism and Taoism in traditional and modern Chinese societies.

QUESTION 6

What is the significance of Shintoism in contemporary Japanese society? Give examples to illustrate your facts.

QUESTION 7

Discuss the historical relationship between Islam and the Baha'I Faith with special reference to the distinctive features of the latter.

QUESTION 8

What are the prospects and challenges of religion? Provide examples from at least four living world religions.