

University of Swaziland

Supplementary Examination Paper 2006

Theology and Religious Studies

B.A./B.ED I/IDE

Title of Paper : Phenomenology of Religion

Course Number : T1P2

Time Allowed : Two (2) Hours

Instructions:

1. Answer Three (3) Questions, At Least One Question Must Be Attempted From Each Section
2. All Questions Carry Equal Marks

Total Marks : 100

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL
PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE
INVIGILATOR

Section A

1. Which definition of religion do you prefer? Give reasons and relevant examples to support your views.
2. Discuss the main assumptions and convictions that influence the psychological approaches to the study of religion.
3. Discuss the functional theory of religion.
4. Explain the cosmological and teleological arguments for the existence of God.

Section B

5. Discuss the distinctive features of the phenomenological method.
6. What is a ritual? Discuss the significance of rituals in African Traditional Religions.

7. Select one of the following questions:

- (a) "The Ten Commandments express the distinctive ethical demands of Yahweh which every Jew has to observe" (Goodman, L.E). Discuss the origins and importance of the Law in Judaism.
- (b) Explain the meaning of karma and rebirth in Indian religions.
- (c) What do we mean by the Four Noble Truths in Buddhism?
- (d) "There is no other god except Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet". Comment on the meaning of this doctrine, with particular reference to Christianity and Judaism.

8. "Feminist theology began as a reaction to the exclusion of women and women's' concerns from traditional Christian theology...A 'feminist hermeneutic of suspicion' seeks out the hidden norms and biases within religious texts" (Sachoki, M). Use the feminist hermeneutic of suspicion to interpret either the myth of the Fall (Genesis 3) Or the Swazi myth of Mentengamunye and Nomkhubulwane.