

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2006

TITLE OF PAPER : **AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS**

COURSE CODE : **T3P2/IDE-T3P2**

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

Write a critique of E.B. Idowu's description and analysis of "The Structure of African Traditional Religion" (1973). In your answer use Swazi Traditional Religion as a case study.

QUESTION 2

What is meant by "the Ancestors" in the context of African Traditional Religions? To what extent are the Ancestors perceived to be essentially different from other spiritual beings that influence the lives of the living? Give specific examples selected from any African Traditional Religion of your choice.

QUESTION 3

Critically discuss the following aspects of a traditional African worldview, and show how they compare Christian perspectives:

- (a) Concept of Time
- (b) Cosmic Unity

QUESTION 4

What is the role of a Sangoma or Diviner in Swazi Traditional Religion and society today?

QUESTION 5

Critically discuss the place of women in African Traditional Religion with special reference to Swazi religion.

QUESTION 6

To what extent, do African Traditional Religions perpetrate, though inadvertently, the spread of the HIV in African societies?

QUESTION 7

The Incwala can be described as "a drama of kingship" (Kuper). Give a critical comment on this statement, and describe some of the key symbolic actors at the Incwala drama.

QUESTION 8

Discuss the relationship between Swazi Traditional Religion and Christianity in contemporary Swazi society.