

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER, JULY 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

Examine J.S. Mbiti's claim that earlier terms used by European scholars to describe African Traditional Religions "are inadequate, derogatory, and prejudicial" (1989). Cite four examples of such terms, and show the extent to which they can be said to be objectionable.

QUESTION 2

"Swazi Religion is alive, vibrant and dynamic in modern Swaziland". Give a critique of this statement.

QUESTION 3

What do we mean by a "traditional African worldview"? Identify and discuss at least two main features of a typical traditional African worldview.

QUESTION 4

Critically examine the roles of traditional healers in African Traditional Religions.

QUESTION 5

Would you agree that Swazi Traditional Religion has "played a key role in influencing the status and role of women in society" (Kasanene, 1994). Cite specific examples to illustrate your view.

QUESTION 6

What is meant by "Rites of Passage" in the context of African Traditional Religions? To what extent, if any, have these rites been integrated to Christian rites of passage in contemporary African societies.

QUESTION 7

Discuss the place of sacred kingship in Swazi culture and society, and explain its relationship with 'immigrant religions' such as Christianity, Islam, and the Baha'i Faith.

QUESTION 8

Critically examine the relationship between the Ancestors and God in African Traditional Religions.