

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2007

TITLE OF PAPER : SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

COURSE CODE : T2P3

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS : ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS. (EACH QUESTION HAS 20 MARKS).

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

QUESTION 1

Discuss the similarities and differences between religion and magic.

QUESTION 2

Briefly discuss the social function of religion according to any three of the following scholars:

- (a) Karl Marx
- (b) Henri Bergson
- (c) Emile Durkheim
- (d) Bronislaw Malinowski

QUESTION 3

Discuss how the following religions have tried to explain the problem of evil in the world:

- (a) Hinduism
- (b) Buddhism
- (c) Islam
- (d) Christianity

QUESTION 4

Discuss how religion tries to solve the problems of sickness and death, two of the worst evils that afflict mankind.

QUESTION 5

Explain and criticize the evolutionary theories of religion by the following scholars:

- (a) James Frazer
- (b) Edward Tylor
- (c) August Comte

QUESTION 6

Are religion and science incompatible, contradictory, or complementary? Give reasons for your answer and illustrate with some examples.