

COURSE CODE T3P2 (S) 2007

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

B.A. /B.ED III/IDE

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER 2007

TITLE OF PAPER: AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS

COURSE TITLE: T3P2

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

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

TOTAL MARKS:100

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

QUESTION 1

"Swazi Religion is alive, vibrant and dynamic in modern Swaziland" (H.L. Ndlovu). Give a critique of this claim.

QUESTION 2

Would you agree with E.B. Idowu that partly due to " the fact of preconceived notions, all sorts of off-hand names have been coined or adopted to describe the essential characteristics of African traditional religion"? Provide relevant examples to illustrate your views.

QUESTION 3

Giving relevant examples from several African cultures, discuss the following aspects of indigenous African religions:

- (a) Belief in the Supreme Being
- (b) Traditional Healers
- (c) Morality and Ethics
- (d) Concept of Time

QUESTION 4

"African Traditional Religions . . . represent ambivalent images of women. These images are at times positive and at times negative" (E. Amoah). Give a critique of this claim, citing specific examples in support of your observations.

QUESTION 5

What do we learn about Swazi sacred kingship from annual Swazi royal ceremonies such as **Umhlanga** and **Incwala**?

QUESTION 6

To what extent, if any, do some African traditional beliefs, morals, attitudes, and customs contribute to the spread of the HIV and AIDS pandemic in Southern Africa?

Question 7

"Most of the Swazi see the relationship between the Christian God and the Ancestors as a very simply one. They pray to both" (M. Russel). Comment on this statement in the context of current relations between African Traditional Religions and some Christian Churches in contemporary African societies.

QUESTION 8

Critically examine the significance of African Traditional Religions in the so-called "global village".