

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER, JULY 2008

- TITLE OF PAPER** : **AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS I**
- COURSE CODE** : **T3P2/IDE-T3P2**
- TIME ALLOWED** : **THREE (3) HOURS**
- MARKS** : **100**
- INSTRUCTIONS** :
- 1. ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
 - 2. TWO QUESTIONS MUST BE ATTEMPTED FROM EACH SECTION.**
 - 2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.**

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

SECTION A

QUESTION 1

Citing relevant examples, describe the distinctive features of African Traditional Religions which set them apart from other living religions of the world.

QUESTION 2

Give a concise critique of the following terms which are used by some writers to explain African Traditional Religions:

- (a) Magic
- (b) Animism
- (c) Tribal
- (d) Idolatry

QUESTION 3

Write short notes on the following aspects of indigenous African world views:

- (a) The Bantu Concept of Time
- (b) Morality and Ethics

QUESTION 4

What is the distinctive role of the ancestors in African Traditional Religion? Cite specific examples in support of your observations.

QUESTION 5

Which methodological approach to the study of African Traditional Religions do you prefer? Give reasons to illustrate your position.

QUESTION 6

Is there a place for African Traditional beliefs in modern sub-saharan Africa?

SECTION B

QUESTION 7

What is the significance of rituals in African Traditional Religions? Give examples selected from several African societies.

QUESTION 8

How would explain the co-existence of rites of passage of indigenous African religions and of Christianity in many

African countries? Provide sufficient evidence in support of your views.

QUESTION 9

Who are the main religious leaders in African Traditional Religions. Cite specific examples from several African societies.

QUESTION 10

Is African divine kingship incompatible with democracy and the rule of law? Give pertinent examples in support of your observations.

QUESTION 11

With special reference to Swazi society and culture, discuss the claim that African Traditional Religions perpetuate the subordination of women to men.

QUESTION 12

What is the future of African Traditional Religions? Provide a systematic argument in support of your view.