

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2008

TITLE OF PAPER : **RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD**

COURSE CODE : **T4P1**

TIME ALLOWED : **THREE (3) HOURS**

MARKS : **60**

INSTRUCTIONS : **ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN SECTION ONE AND ANY QUESTION IN SECTION TWO (ONE QUESTION)**

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

SECTION ONE

1. The Etymological definition of religion implies that religion is

- a) Something that liberates
- b) Something that binds
- c) Something that loosens
- d) Something that isolates.

2. Agnosticism means

- a) Belief that there are many gods
- b) Belief that there is one God
- c) Belief that there is no God
- d) Belief that no one knows whether or not there is god.

3. Pantheism means

- a) Belief that there is only one God
- b) Belief that there are many gods
- c) Belief that God and the Universe are one
- d) Belief that there is no God.

4. The three stages in the development of the human mind, according to August Comte are:

- a) The positive stage, the metaphysical stage and the religious stage.
- b) The metaphysical stage, the religious stage and the positive stage
- c) The religious stage, the metaphysical stage and the positive stage
- d) The positive stage, the religious stage and the metaphysical stage.

5. The anthropological approach to the study of religion adopts the “participatory observation” method, which means

- a) Taking part in what is being observed
- b) Taking a neutral position in one’s observation
- c) Taking part in data collection through questionnaire distribution
- d) Taking part in the analysis of data collected through the questionnaire.

6. The phenomenological approach to the study of religion is

- a) An evaluative approach
- b) A descriptive approach
- c) A problem solving approach
- d) A prescriptive approach

7. An ontological argument for the existence of God is an argument

- a) That analyses the concept of God and concludes that such a Being necessarily exists.
- b) That traces the causal series in this world to an ultimate cause beyond the world (God)
- c) That examines the order and harmony in this world and concludes that it is the product of an intelligent divine being (God)
- d) That analyses religious experience and concludes that there is God, the object of religious experience.

8. Cosmological argument for the existence of God is an argument

- a) That analyses the concept of God and concludes that such a being necessarily exists.
- b) That examines the order and harmony in the universe and concludes that it is the product of an intelligent divine Being (God)
- c) That traces the causal series in this world beyond the world to an ultimate cause of all things (God)
- d) That analyses miracles and concludes that the power comes from a supernatural source (God).

9. The process philosophy of Alfred North Whitehead portrays God as

- a) Watching us as we are suffering
- b) The cause of our suffering
- c) Suffering along with us
- d) Indifferent to our suffering.

10. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the “father of secularization theology” tells us that

- a) God is teaching us to live without Him
- b) God wants us to depend on Him
- c) God is warning us not to forget Him
- d) God is asking us to come back to Him.

SECTION TWO

1. What does Sigmund Freud mean when he describes religion as “childhood neurosis”. “father complex”? Explain and criticize him.
2. What does Karl Marx mean when he describes religion as “the opium of the people”? Explain and criticize him.
3. Discuss the basic common features of primal religions.
4. “Religion is the worship of human nature”. “Religion is man’s self-alienation”. Explain and criticize these statements of Ludwig Feuerbach.