

University of Swaziland

Main Examination Paper 2008

Theology and Religious Studies

B.A./B.ED I/IDE

Title of Paper : Phenomenology of Religion

Course Number : T1P2

Time Allowed : Two (2) Hours

Instructions:

1. Answer Three (3) Questions, At Least One Question Must Be Attempted From Each Section
2. Each Question Carries 20 Marks

Total Marks : 60

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

Section A

1. Briefly explain the meaning of the following terms:
 - (i) transcendence
 - (ii) immanence
 - (iii) anthropomorphism
 - (iv) theism
 - (v) atheism

2. (a) Explain the theories about the origin and nature of religion by any two of the following scholars:
 - (i) Ludwig Feuerbach
 - (ii) Sigmund Freud
 - (iii) Karl Marx
 - (iv) August Comte
 - (v) St. Augustine

(b) Do you agree with them? Give reasons why you agree or disagree with them.

3. "Science and technology can solve all human problems: religion has become outdate and redundant in the twenty-first century". Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

4. Explain the main features of religious experience according to any two of the follwing scholars:
 - (i) C.A. Campbell
 - (ii) William James
 - (iii) Schleiermarcher
 - (iv) Mircea Eliade
 - (v) Rudolf Otto

5. Why is it difficult to have a universally acceptable definition of religion? Explain.

6. Explain briefly the meaning of the following terms:
 - (i) agnosticism
 - (ii) polytheism
 - (iii) pantheism
 - (iv) deism
 - (v) ascetism

Section B

7. Explain the meaning of the following terms in phenomenology:

- (i) eidetic science
- (ii) phenomenological reduction (otherwise known as phenomenological epoche)
- (iii) eidectic reduction
- (iv) intentionality

8. Explain how the sociological approach to the study of religion differs from the psychological approach.

9. Explain the meaning of the following terms in Hinduism:

- (i) karma
- (ii) ahimsa
- (iii) samsara
- (iv) moksha
- (v) avatar

10. Explain the following teachings of the Buddha:

- (i) the four noble truths
- (ii) the three characteristics of human existence

11. Explain what Islam and the Baha'I Faith have in common and where they differ.

12. Is African Traditional Religion a monotheistic or a polytheistic? Give reasons for your answer.