

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

April/May Examinations, 2008/2009

IDE T2P3: Sociology of Religion

Instruction: Answer three questions altogether, one question from section I and two questions from section II (each question carries 20 marks)

Time allowed: 3 hours

Section I

- (1) Explain the theories about the nature of religion, according to the following scholars: (i) Ludwig Feuerbach, (ii) Sigmund Freud, (iii) August Comte, (iv) Karl Marx, (v) St. Augustine
- (2) Explain the meaning of the following religious terms:
(i) atheism, (ii) theism, (iii) polytheism, (iv) agnosticism, (v) monotheism, (vi) pantheism, (vii) monasticism, (viii) celibacy, (ix) asceticism, (x) anthropomorphism
- (3) Discuss the following:
(i) what secularization is (ii) the factors that contributed to the secularization process
(iii) the effects of secularization (iv) the different dimensions of secularization

Section II

- (4) (a) Discuss four ways in which religion and morality can be seen to be related according to scholars. (b) How do you see the relationship yourself? Give reasons for your answer
- (5) There are divisions in all world religions. Discuss at least ten causes of divisions in religions.
- (6) The attitude of world religions to the problem of evil in the world can be categorized broadly into three positions. Explain these positions
- (7) Explain the social function of religion according to the following scholars:
(i) Emile Durkheim (ii) Karl Marx (iii) Henri Bergson

- (8) Discuss the ways in which religion can affect the economy, both at the individual level and at State level
- (9) Discuss, with examples, how religion can influence politics and how politics can influence religion