

Course Code: T3P2/IDE-T3P2 (M) 2009

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

B.A./B.ED III/IDE

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2009

TITLE OF PAPER : AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS

COURSE CODE : T3P2/IDE-T3P2

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

MARKS : 100

INSTRUCTIONS :

- 1. ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS.**
- 2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.**

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

QUESTION 1

"African religious experience and spirituality are powerful forces which must be reckoned with in any serious study of African societies today" (Olupona J.K, 1991). Comment on this claim, giving pertinent examples selected from at least two African societies to illustrate your views.

QUESTION 2

"Earlier descriptions and studies of African religions left us with terms which are inadequate, derogatory and prejudicial" (Mbiti, J.S 1989). Explain the above statement with particular reference to at least four examples of such terms that were used by some writers.

QUESTION 3

"In the first edition I spoke about 'African religions' in the plural to keep the diversity of African religiosity. Since then I have felt the need to emphasize also the commonalities and potential unity (not uniformity) within this diversity" (Mbiti, J.S 1989). Critically explain this statement in relation to common features of African Traditional Religions.

QUESTION 4

What do we mean by indigenous "African world-views"? Giving relevant examples to illustrate your views, describe and explain African world-views pertaining to (a) Time and (b) Morality.

QUESTION 5

Critically describe and evaluate current and prospective roles of Umhlanga (the Reed Dance) rite in the context of the spread of the HIV and AIDS pandemic in the Kingdom of Swaziland.

QUESTION 6

"African religion is neither an exclusively patriarchal nor a predominantly matriarchal religion" (Mbiti, J.S 1989). Do you agree? Give clear examples to support your facts.

QUESTION 7

Describe and explain dominant concepts and values that are affirmed and dramatized at the Swazi Incwala ceremony. What, in your view, is the significance and future of this annual event?

QUESTION 8

Identify and explain those sections of The Constitution of the Kingdom of Swaziland (2005) that foster and promote, directly and indirectly, Swazi indigenous beliefs and practices.