

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, APRIL/MAY 2011

TITLE OF PAPER : SELECT THEMES IN THE HISTORY OF
CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

COURSE CODE : T3P6/IDE-T3P6

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

MARKS : 100

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. CHOOSE AND ANSWER ANY **FOUR (4)** QUESTIONS.
2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 25 MARKS.
3. BEGIN EACH QUESTION ON A FRESH PAGE.
4. PARTS OF A QUESTION MAY BE ANSWERED ON THE SAME PAGE, ALLOWING FOR A SPACE OF THREE LINES IN BETWEEN.
5. CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR CLARITY, ACCURACY AND GOOD THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT.

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

QUESTION ONE

What is hellenization? Describe the various responses Jews made to hellenization in the centuries leading up to the birth of Christ.

[25]

QUESTION TWO

“Afflict us, torment us, crucify us, - in proportion as we are mowed down, we increase; the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.”

(Quintus Septimius Florens Tertullianus, Apology 50)

With reference to the persecution of Christians by the Roman Emperors in the first three centuries explain the meaning of the above statement.

[25]

QUESTION THREE

Discuss both the short and long- term impact of Emperor Constantine’s religious policy on the expansion of Christianity since the fourth century.

[25]

QUESTION FOUR

Select any one Church Father who lived during the Patristic era, and assess his contribution towards shaping Christian thought.

[25]

QUESTION FIVE

Discuss the Donatist schism (311 CE) in Carthage. What were its implications on the development of Roman Catholicism in the 4th and 5th centuries?

[25]

QUESTION SIX

Critically analyze the factors that led to the separation between Western Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy in 1054 CE.

[25]

QUESTION SEVEN

Discuss the reasons for the English Reformation. Was the 'new' religion which King Henry viii established really Protestant? Explain.

[25]

QUESTION EIGHT

Describe the drastic steps that the Roman Catholic Church took to survive the challenge of the 16th century Protestant Reformation. In your own assessment, did Catholicism change subsequent to the new doctrinal developments introduced by the Protesters?

[25]

THE END