

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER, JULY 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. ANSWER ANY FOUR 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 ACUMEN.

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

QUESTION ONE

Discuss the diversity of early Christianity with particular emphasis on the frictions that developed between St Paul and the other Apostles. Why might such a Christian community take offence at the preaching of St. Paul?

[25]

QUESTION TWO

How can you explain the phenomenal growth of Christianity beyond the confines of Palestine to most parts of the Roman Empire in the first three centuries?

[25]

QUESTION THREE

Assess the impact of heresy in Christian thought. Illustrate your answer with reference to Gnosticism.

[25]

QUESTION FOUR

Do the ideals of asceticism have some relevance in the contemporary Christian Church? Discuss.

[25]

QUESTION FIVE

Explain the effect of the Ottoman conquest of the Byzantine Empire in 1453 on the Orthodox communion of the Balkans and the Near East.

[25]

QUESTION SIX

"The Reformation did not happen in a vacuum as there were movements for centuries calling for a return to Biblical teachings."

With specific reference to one Christian movement that emerged in the 15th century, react to the above stimulus.

[25]

QUESTION SEVEN

Why did Martin Luther and John Calvin attack the principles and institutions of the medieval Latin-Rite Church? Discuss particularly Luther's essays "Address to the Christian Nobility" and "On Christian Liberty," and Calvin's "Institutes of the Christian Religion."

[25]

QUESTION EIGHT

Clearly illustrate how the Puritan Movement was inspired by politics in England during the 16th century Protestant Reformation.

[25]

THE END