

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS
STUDIES
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER, JULY 2011

TITLE OF PAPER : CHRISTIAN ETHICS

COURSE CODE : TRS 202/IDE-TRS 202

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

MARKS : 75

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. CHOOSE AND ANSWER ANY **THREE** (3) 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

With reference to relevant examples, differentiate between teleological and deontological ethical systems.

[25]

QUESTION TWO

Discuss Marxism and its moral implications. How does this philosophical system lead to the same conclusions with Christian ethics on moral behaviour?

[25]

QUESTION THREE

Explain how the ancient Greek philosopher, Aristotle (384 BCE -322 BC) shaped the ethical thinking of modern philosophers.

[25]

QUESTION FOUR

How is conscience defined in Christian ethics? Critically assess it as a source of guidance in making moral decisions.

[25]

QUESTION FIVE

"You are not under law but under grace"

Romans 6:16

Discuss St Paul's understanding of freedom and its significant implications for the moral life.

[25]

QUESTION SIX

A CASE STUDY

I was reading Gardner's "Biblical Faith and Social Ethics" on a shuttle plane to New York. Next to me sat a young woman of about twenty-eight or so, attractive and well turned out in expensive clothes of good taste. She showed some interest in my book, and I asked if she'd like to look at it. "No", she said, "I'd rather talk." What about? "Me." That was a surprise, and I knew it meant good-bye to the reading I needed to get done. "I have a problem I can't get unconfused about. You might help me to decide", she explained... There was a war going on that her government believed could be stopped by some clever use of espionage and blackmail. However, this meant she had to seduce and sleep with an enemy spy in order to lure him into blackmail. Now this went against her morals, but if it brought the war to an end, saving thousands of lives, would it be worth breaking those moral standards? Adopted from Joseph Fletcher's four examples.

Explain how a Roman Catholic ethicist who subscribes to the traditional approach would address the question of breaking moral standards posed in the above case study.

[25]

THE END