

University of Swaziland

Final Examination Paper 2012

Theology and Religious Studies

B.A./B.ED I/IDE

Title of Paper : Phenomenology of Religion

Course Number : TRS101

Time Allowed : Two (2) Hours

Instructions:

1. Answer Three (3) Questions, At Least One Question Must Be Attempted From Each Section
2. Each Question Carries 20 Marks

Total Marks : 60

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

Section A

1. "All accounts of religion are accounts by people who approach their study from a particular starting point" (Connolly, P., 1999). Explain this statement with reference to three definitions of religion that were formulated by scholars from different disciplines.
2. "The sociological study of religion has drawn attention to not only to the dependence of religious beliefs and communities on social forces and processes but also to the generative power of religious organization and doctrine" (Northscott, M. S., 1999) . Explain this statement, giving relevant examples.
3. Describe principal features of phenomenological approaches to the study of religion and comment on their strengths and weaknesses.

Section B

4. Discuss, from a phenomenological perspective, the prominent doctrines and ethics of **one** of the following religions:
 - (i) African Indigenous Religions
 - (ii) Hinduism
 - (iii) Buddhism
 - (iv) Islam
5. "The basic teaching of the Baha'i Faith is that there is only one God who is the source of all religions" (Ndlovu, H. L., 1997). Comment on this statement with special attention to the different and conflicting doctrines of the world's religions.
6. What is the future of religion? In your answer, draw examples from some of the religions that you have studied.