

Course Code TRS101 (S) - 2012
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University of Swaziland

Supplementary 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. What is religion? Which definition of religion do you prefer? Give reasons in support of your preferred definition.
2. What is meant by philosophy of religion? Describe its contributions towards a better understanding of religious phenomena.
3. "Perhaps the best way to clarify why there should be such a discipline as the phenomenology of religion, which claims its own boundaries and methods of investigation, is to contrast it with other approaches" (Erricker, C., 1999). Comment on this statement and show how phenomenological approaches differ from other academic approaches to the study of religion.

SECTION B

4. What is meant by African Indigenous Religions? Describe their principal beliefs and practices.
5. Explain the following religious concepts:
 - (i) **Nirvana**
 - (ii) **Brahman**
 - (iii) **Moksha**
 - (iv) **Muhammad is the Seal of the Prophets**
 - (v) **God has sent the new Messenger for this day and age. His name is Baha'ullah.**
6. Do the different religions of the world share essential doctrines? Give relevant examples drawn from the religions that you have studied.