

Course Code: TRS303 (M) 2011

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

B.A./B.ED III/IDE

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER, DECEMBER 2011

TITLE OF PAPER : **AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS I**

COURSE CODE : **TRS 303**

TIME ALLOWED : **THREE (3) HOURS**

INSTRUCTIONS : **1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS.**
2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

TOTAL MARKS : **60**

THIS QUESTION PAPER MUST NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

1. "African Traditional Religions are studied as a subject alongside Christianity and Islam as one of the three major religious traditions which have for centuries influenced and have continued to influence the thinking, beliefs, attitudes and lives of millions of Africans" (Ikenga-Metuh, E. 1987). Would you agree with Ikenga-Metuh that African indigenous religions continue "to influence the thinking, beliefs, attitudes and lives of millions of Africans"? In your answer you should draw examples from a few African Religions of your choice.
2. Would you agree with John Mbiti (1989) that "earlier descriptions and studies of African religions left us with terms which are inadequate, derogatory and prejudicial"? Give examples of four terms that are seen by current scholars as inadequate, derogatory, and prejudicial.
3. "While we do not speak of '**the African God**' . . . we can legitimately speak of '**an African God**': that is, God as perceived and understood from within the cultural matrix of a particular African society" (Letsholo, G. D., 2002). Comment on this observation with specific reference to concepts of God in contemporary African indigenous religions.
4. "Taking Africa as a whole, there are in reality five component elements that go into the making of African traditional religion" (Idowu, E. B., 1973). Examine this claim.
5. Write short critical notes on following features of African worldviews: (i) causation (ii) time (iii) ethics.
6. Discuss any two of the listed issues in current studies of African traditions:
 - (i) theory and method
 - (ii) transcendence and immanence of God
 - (iii) resilience and adaptability