

Course Code TRS 101(M) - 2013
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University of Swaziland

Final Examination Paper 2013

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. “It is not surprising to find that many of the works on the study of religion begin with or include a discussion of definitions . . . it is unlikely that all scholars will agree on any single formulation” (Connolly, P., 1999). Explain this statement and illustrate your answer with reference to two conflicting definitions of religion.
2. Theology “is essentially a second order activity arising from ‘faith’ and interpreting faith” (Whaling F., 1999). Explain this statement, giving relevant examples.
3. What is meant by the term “*epoche*”? Describe the main features of phenomenological approaches to the study of religion. What do you consider to be the shortcoming(s) of phenomenological approaches?

SECTION B

4. Describe, from a phenomenological perspective, the main beliefs, rituals, and ethical teachings of **one** of the following religions:
 - (i) African Indigenous Religions
 - (ii) Hinduism
 - (iii) Buddhism
 - (iv) Islam
 - (v) The Baha’i Faith.
5. Do the religions of the world share common beliefs and values? In your answer, give relevant examples taken from at least three of the religions that you have studied.
6. Is religion relevant in the twenty-first century – an era that is profoundly influenced by scientific knowledge and rapid technological advances? In your answer, draw examples from some of the religions that you have studied.