

COURSE CODE TRS400 (M) 2012

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER 2012  
THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
B.A / B.ED IV / IDE

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER, DECEMBER 2012

TITLE OF PAPER: RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD I

COURSE NUMBER: TRS400

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS

2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

TOTAL MARKS : 60

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THE INVIGILATOR

- 1 . Discuss at least four motivations for the study of the world's religions.
- 2 . "Religion is a two-edge sword which can cut either way with serious consequences" (Omoregbe 1999:1). Explain this statement with particular reference to the role of the world's religions in previous and contemporary societies.
- 3 . Examine the theories of the origin of religion as projection of human needs, showing the extent, if any, to which they are convincing.
- 4 . "The historical religions now pretty much blanket the earth, but chronologically they form only a tip of the religious iceberg; for they span less than four thousand years as compared with the three million years or so of the religions that preceded them" (Smith, H. 1991:365). Which are these religions that preceded the "historical religions"? Explain their common features using one religion that you have studied as an example.
- 5 . What is Hinduism? Explain why Hinduism can rightly be described as a way of life rather than a belief system.
- 6 . Explain the historical and religious ties between Hinduism and Buddhism.