

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER, DECEMBER 2013

TITLE OF PAPER : CHRISTIAN ETHICS 1

COURSE CODE : TRS 202/IDE-TRS 202

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

MARKS : 75

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. CHOOSE AND ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS.**
- 2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 25 MARKS.**
- 3. BEGIN EACH QUESTION ON A FRESH PAGE.**
- 4. CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR CLARITY, ACCURACY AND GOOD THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT.**

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

QUESTION ONE

Explain the differences between *deontological* and *teleological* ethical theories. Use examples to explain how these theories might provide different answers to moral questions.

[25]

QUESTION TWO

"Ayn Rand calls the doctrine of altruism *moral cannibalism* and *anti-self ethics*."

(Crook, 2013:22)

Describe and evaluate Rand's classification of altruism.

[25]

QUESTION THREE

Critically assess the ethical ideals of Joseph's Fletcher's situation ethics.

[25]

QUESTION FOUR

A case study

I was reading Gardner's "Biblical Faith and Social Ethics" on a shuttle plane to New York. Next to me sat a young woman of about twenty-eight or so, attractive and well turned out in expensive clothes of good taste. She showed some interest in my book, and I asked if she'd like to look at it. "No", she said, "I'd rather talk." What about? "Me." That was a surprise, and I knew it meant good-bye to the reading I needed to get done. "I have a problem I can't get unconfused about. You might help me to decide", she explained... There was a war going on that her government believed could be stopped by some clever use of espionage and blackmail. However, this meant she had to seduce and sleep with an enemy spy in order to lure him into blackmail. Now this went against her morals, but if it brought the war to an end, saving thousands of lives, would it be worth breaking those moral standards? *(Adapted from Fletcher's Four Examples)*

With reference to the Roman Catholic traditional understanding of morality, predict the advice that a Roman Catholic may give to the young woman in the case study. Give reasons for your predictions.

[25]

QUESTION FIVE

What does Paul Ramsey mean by "*the Christian ethic is an ethic without rules?*" What does this have to do with principles of ethical behavior for Christians?

[25]

QUESTION SIX

How can the teachings of St. Paul in the New Testament inform Christians about solutions to moral problems in the 21st century?

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