

COURSE CODE TRS101 (M) 2016
UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER 2016
THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
B.A. / B.ED. IV / IDE

TITLE OF PAPER: PHENOMENOLOGY OF RELIGION

COURSE CODE: TRS101

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS. AT LEAST ONE (1) QUESTION MUST BE ATTEMPTED FROM EACH SECTION.
2. YOU MUST ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR SOURCES.
3. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

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

SECTION A

Question 1

According to Peter Connolly, all academic disciplines with an interest in religion “bring with them a set of assumptions about the nature of their subject-matter and, however naive it might be, a method or set of methods for obtaining information and making sense of it” (1999:1).

Explain this statement and illustrate it with reference to sociological definitions and explanations of religion.

Question 2

What do we learn from psychology of religion about the nature of religion and its role in society? Give relevant examples to illustrate your facts.

Question 3

According to Frank Whaling, theology “is essentially a second-order activity arising from ‘faith’ and interpreting faith” (1999:229). Explain this observation and show how theological approaches to the study of religion differ from the other approaches that you have studied. Give relevant examples to illustrate your facts.

SECTION B

Question 4

According to John Mbiti, “We speak of African traditional religions in the plural because there are about three thousand African peoples (tribes), and each has its own religious system” (1989:1). Explain this important observation and describe, from a phenomenological perspective, the main beliefs and practices of African Religion.

Question 5

Describe the prominent traditions, values and practices of Hinduism from a phenomenological view.

Question 6

Select one of the following questions (i, ii, and iii):

- i. Describe, from a phenomenological perspective, the steps that lead to *Nirvana*.
- ii. Describe, from a phenomenological perspective, the five pillars of Islamic faith and piety.
- iii. Who was Baha’ullah? Describe, from a phenomenological perspective, his main teachings.