

COURSE CODE TRS101 (S) 2016

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY 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

Explain the reasons why there is no universal definition of religion. Illustrate your facts with relevant examples.

Question 2

What do we learn from cultural and social anthropology about the nature of religion? Give relevant examples to illustrate your facts.

Question 3

According to Ninian Smart, phenomenology “is an intentionally bracketing method, which tries to bring out the nature of believers’ ideas and feelings. It involves walking in the moccasins of the faithful” (1999: ix). Explain this statement and illustrate your views with relevant examples.

SECTION B

Question 4

What is meant by “African Traditional Religion”? Give a phenomenological description of the core beliefs of African Traditional Religion.

Question 5

Discuss the main beliefs and ethical teachings of Hinduism from a phenomenological view.

Question 6

Select **one** of the following questions (i, ii, iii) and answer the respective questions that follow:

- i. Describe from a Buddhist perspective the path to salvation.
- ii. What is a Muslim? Describe the main doctrines of Islam from a Muslim perspective.
- iii. Highlight the key doctrines of the Baha’i Faith from a phenomenological perspective.