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**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
**MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER, DECEMBER 2015**

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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 NEW 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 1**

Identify the differences between deontological and teleological ethical traditions. Which one of the two approaches to ethics makes sense to you and why?

[25]

**QUESTION TWO**

What does B. F. Skinner mean by the statement, 'a person's behavior is controlled by his genetic and environmental histories rather than by the person himself as an initiating, creative agent' (1974:189). To what extent do you agree with his theory?

[25]

**QUESTION THREE****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: Joseph Fletcher's four examples on situational ethics.*

With reference to this case study critically discuss Joseph Fletcher's understanding of moral maxims and standards that should inform decision making.

[25]

#### QUESTION FOUR

*'Feminist ethics is the effort to articulate a vision of a new community and to make that vision real' (Eleanor Haney, 1994:4).*

Discuss the meaning of this statement in relation to Christian feminist ethics that can be embraced in a patriarchal society.

[25]

#### QUESTION 5

*'The force of the conscience is extremely powerful... it speaks in an authoritative voice, its dictates seem final, and the person who violates its demands suffers remorse' (Crook, 2013:62).*

To what extent do you agree with Crook in your assessment of the conscience as a source of guidance?

[25]

#### QUESTION SIX

Discuss the defining features of Old Testament morality. How did Jesus' approach to ethics differ from that of the Old Testament?

[25]

**THE END**