

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

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INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION  
&  
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

TRS 303 MAIN EXAMINATION, DECEMBER 2015

TITLE OF PAPER : AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION I  
COURSE CODE : TRS 303  
DURATION : 2 Hours

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Choose and answer three (3) questions in all.
2. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.
3. The paper consists of two (2) printed pages including the cover page.
4. All questions carry equal marks.

**DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR GRANTS YOU PERMISSION TO DO SO.**

**IDE/TRS 303 AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION I, (M) December 2015**

1. Discuss the distinctive characteristics of African indigenous religions. Illustrate your answer with examples from any **TWO** traditions you have studied in this course.
2. "...without any exception, they [Africans] are without a belief in a Supreme Being, neither have they any form of worship or idolatry; nor is the darkness of their minds enlightened by even a ray of superstition. The mind is as stagnant as the morass which forms its puny world"(Baker 1867 in Evans-Pritchard, 1965:231). Write a critical commentary on Baker's views pertaining to African indigenous religions as summarised in the above statement.
3. In what ways could scholars draw from African indigenous traditions to advance gender equity? Give specific examples from Swazi indigenous religion to support your views.
4. "While we do not speak of '**the African God**' . . . we can legitimately speak of '**an African God**': that is, God as perceived and understood from within the cultural matrix of a particular African society" (Letsholo, G. D., 2002). Comment on this observation with specific reference to concepts of God in contemporary African indigenous religions.
5. Write a critique of contemporary scholarly views on the following features of African worldviews: (a) causation, and (b) concept of time.
6. What does it mean to be a human being from the perspective of African traditional socio-religious ethics? Illustrate your answer with views and facts drawn from current studies of African Religion.