

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
&  
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**TRS 303 SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, JULY 2016**

**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.**

## **TRS 303AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION I, (S) July 2016**

1. Explain why accounts by early missionaries, travelers and colonial agents on African religious heritage are viewed as “collections of random observations and superficial opinions designed to appeal to the popular European mind” (Ray 1972:2).
2. Identify and discuss the conspicuous constituents of African religious tradition. Illustrate your answer with examples from Swazi religious tradition.
3. In their writings, African theologians were out to restore “a respectable religious past, thereby uplifting the self respect and dignity of the educated Africans vis à vis the dominant Western colonial culture... [their] political function was to help bring national unity in Africa’s ethnically plural societies which were rife with tensions, by de-emphasizing the differences between the religions and by highlighting the theistic beliefs they had in common”(Platvoet, 1996:124). To what extent do you agree with this claim?
4. Drawing examples from at least two different African religious traditions, discuss contemporary African religious beliefs pertaining to God.
5. “If, as many Africans believe, both human suffering and human prosperity have their origins in relations with the spirit world, cultivating that relationship assumes great importance” (Ellis and TerHaar, 2004:51). Explain reasons why these writers have reached at this conclusion in their studies on indigenous African notions of causation. .
6. Describe traditional African ethics of Buntfu/Ubuntu/Botho, and comment on whether or not the application of this ethics could contribute to, and facilitate national development in contemporary African society.