

COURSE CODE TRS401 (M) 2016
UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER 2016
THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
B.A. / B.ED IV / IDE

COURSE CODE: TRS401

TITLE OF PAPER: RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD II

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS.
2. YOU SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR SOURCES.
3. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

TOTAL MARKS: 60

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

Question 1**Speech of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the European Parliament, Strasbourg**

October 14, 2001

.....During the past more than four decades since my escape, Tibet has been under the complete control of the Government of the People's Republic of China. The immense destruction and human suffering inflicted on the people of Tibet are today well known and I do not wish to dwell on these sad and painful events. Tibet today continues to be an occupied country, oppressed by force and scarred by suffering. Despite some development and economic progress, Tibet continues to face fundamental problems of survival. Serious violations of human rights are widespread throughout Tibet and are often the result of policies of racial and cultural discrimination. I have led the Tibetan freedom struggle on a path of non-violence and have consistently sought a mutually agreeable solution of the Tibetan issue through negotiations in a spirit of reconciliation and compromise with China. With this spirit in 1988 here in Strasbourg at this Parliament I presented a formal proposal for negotiations, which we hoped would serve as a basis for resolving the issue of Tibet. I had chosen consciously the European Parliament as a venue to present my thoughts for a framework for negotiations in order to underline the point that a genuine union can only come about voluntarily when there are satisfactory benefits to all the parties concerned. The European Union is a clear and inspiring example of this. On the other hand, even one country or community can break into two or more entities when there is a lack of trust and benefit, and when force is used as the principal means of rule.....

My proposal which later became known as the "Middle Way Approach" or the "Strasbourg Proposal" envisages that Tibet enjoy genuine autonomy within the framework of the People's Republic of China. However, not the autonomy on paper imposed on us 50 years ago in the 17-Point Agreement, but a true self-governing, genuinely autonomous Tibet, with Tibetans fully responsible for their own domestic affairs, including the education of their children, religious matters, cultural affairs, the care of their delicate and precious environment, and the local economy....

What does the above speech tell you about the philosophy of the Dalai Lama? How does it relate to the core teachings of Buddhism?

Question 2

Discuss the ethical teachings in Confucius tradition. Your answer should include references to terms such as good, virtue, appropriate manners and filial piety. To what extent are these teachings similar to those of other religions you have studied?

Question 3

Critically discuss the Taoist social teaching on humanity's obligation to ecology, as explained in the Chaung Tzu.

Question 4

“Shinto, in its many forms, still remains an importance force in Japanese culture” (Lewis Hopfe).
Discuss this statement and identify and explain the “many forms” of Shinto.

Question 5

Explain the concept of *jihad* in relation to the so-called “*Ancillaries of the Faith*” in Islam. Do you think that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) would support the use of terrorism to “protect the Way of God against the forces of evil”? Why or why not?

Question 6

What is the relevance, if any, of the Baha’i Faith in the globalized world?
