

University of Swaziland
Faculty of Humanities & Institute of Distance Education
Department of Theology & Religious Studies
First Semester Main Examination, December 2015

Course Code : TRS 404
Course Title : Religion & Ideology in Contemporary Africa I
Duration : Two (2) Hours

Instructions

- a. Choose and answer three (3) questions.
- b. Your answer to each question should not exceed two and a half pages.
- c. Write in clear and grammatically correct sentences.

*NB: Each Question is worth 25 marks.

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

TRS 404 Religion & Ideology in Contemporary Africa I (M) December 2015

Question 1

Explain how Italian political philosopher Antonio Gramsci modified the Marxian understanding of how ideology is used by a dominant group in any given society to justify its occupation of power.

Question 2

Identify the point of distinction between religion and ideology and analyse how this distinguishing feature however inspires rather than inhibits the interplay between the two phenomena.

Question 3

Substantiate the observation by Darrell Reek (1976) that Nkrumah's use of religion for ideological purposes was ambiguous and ambivalent with key supporting information pertaining to Nkrumah's presidency in Ghana from 1957 to 1966.

Question 4

Analyse the political decision to declare the Week of National Repentance by General I.K. in response to the university students' demonstrations against the failure of the Ghanaian economy between 1972 and 1978.

Question 5

Write a critique of Is-haq Olanrewaju Oloyede's argument that "Nigeria is a multi-religious and not a secular state" (2014:192).

Question 6

Assess the contention by Edward and Abel (2012) that religious fundamentalism as well as the manipulation of religion for political ends in post-colonial Nigeria has led to a state of "normlessness" in Nigerian society.

Question 7

Discuss the nature of church-state relations during Jomo Kenyatta's presidency in Kenya from 1963 to 1978.

Question 8

Identify the challenges faced by the Kenyan state in regulating religious diversity from 2010 to the present.

Question 9

What does the following extract reveal about former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere's views on religion and ideology?

We believe that differences in our religions or our political ideologies may cause difficulties for our small minds, but do not, to our way of thinking, affect the rights of every individual to be treated as a man, with dignity and honour . . . We accept without question as a basis, a basic article of faith, that every individual has an equal right to inherit the earth, to partake of its joys and its sorrows and to contribute to the building of the sort of society which he desires for himself and also for his children.
(Nyerere, Independence Address to the United Nations: 14 December 1961 ' FAU, 145 – 146)

Question 10

Discuss the factors that are cited by Mesaki (2011:254) as causes of tension-filled relations between the state and religion in present-day Tanzania.
