

University of Swaziland
Faculty of Humanities & Institute of Distance Education
Department of Theology & Religious Studies
Supplementary Examination, July 2016

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 (S) July 2016

Question 1

Discuss the merits or demerits of Peter Berger's 1998 warning against the tendency of political elites all over the world to ignore the significance of religion in the public life in the context of notable developments within religion on the globe.

Question 2

Explain why the notable social significance of religion in the public life in contemporary sub-Saharan Africa is described as a "resurgence" of religion on the subcontinent.

Question 3

What are the theoretical and practical implications of the fact that both British colonialists and Nkrumah and his Convention People's Party appropriated Christian teaching to justify their respective political agendas in Gold Coast/Ghana?

Question 4

Analyse the views expressed in the following extract paying particular attention to what they reveal about the appropriation of religion for ideological purposes in the context of Ghana at the time such views were articulated by the bar Association of that country.

It is rather remarkable that at a time when Ghana is caught in a constitutional trauma, at a time when highly qualified and knowledgeable citizens of Ghana are denied the facilities and the freedom to discuss the issues and educate their countrymen, that an American citizen alien to our political, cultural and economic background should appear on the scene, to propagate the concept of Union Government not only as a political solution to our problems but as an institution ordained by Almighty God. Her so-called expert knowledge coincides with General Acheampong's own dictum... In its desperation the government of the S.M.C. has considered it worthwhile not to limit the discussion of Union Government within the confines of intellectual common sense and objective appreciation but to launch out into the undefined misty and speculative fields of religion, occultism and mysticism. The aim whereof is to stupefy the gullible intellectually and becloud their vision. (Ghana Bar Association cited in Pobe: 1987, 57)

Question 5

Explain why in Nigeria the two paramount sources of identity are ethnicity and religion. It is expected that in their explanation candidates will cite the historical lack of nationalist conceptions of identity.

Question 6

With reference to key incidents, demonstrate the complexity of the factors behind the outbreak of the numerous communal conflicts in Nigeria since 1998 up to the present with reference to key incidents.

Question 7

Elaborate on the observation made by a number of scholars that church-state relations during the presidency of Jomo Kenyatta from 1963 to 1978 were cordial.

Question 8

Discuss the implication of the basis on which the May 2010 ruling by the Kenya High Court declaring Kadhis' Courts in Kenya unconstitutional.

Question 9

Write a critique of Ujamaa as a state ideology propagated by Julius Nyerere the first Tanzanian independence leader.

Question 10

Comment on the observation that "...the role of religion in governance issues (state *vis-à-vis* religion) has been one area of contention for both politicians and religious leaders" (Liviga, 2006:328).
