

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
**MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER, DECEMBER 2016**

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TITLE OF PAPER : RELIGIOUS ETHICS

COURSE CODE : TRS 210

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

MARKS : 75

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. CHOOSE AND ANSWER ANY **THREE (3)** QUESTIONS.**
- 2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 25 MARKS.**
- 3. BEGIN EACH QUESTION ON A NEW PAGE.**
- 4. CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR CLARITY, ACCURACY AND GOOD THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT.**

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

### Question One

*Immanuel Kant (1724–1804) argued that the supreme principle of morality is a standard of rationality that he dubbed the “Categorical Imperative” (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2004).*

What did Emmanuel Kant mean by “Categorical Imperative” in his ethical theory?

### Question Two

*Treat others the way you would like them to treat you.*

Demonstrate the commonalities in the understanding of the above maxim by Muslim and Christian ethicists. Cite examples to support your reasoning.

### Question Three

Provide evidence that Buddhist ethics are based on intention or volition.

### Question Four

#### *A Case Study*

*The twin daughters of the Maltese couple Michaelangelo and Rina Attard, known to the British public as Mary and Jodie, were joined at the pelvis with a fused spine. Although operations to separate other infants joined in such a manner have been relatively straightforward, doctors knew from before the girls' birth in October 2000 that both babies could not survive...Mary, the smaller and weaker twin, was fatally compromised. Her lungs and heart were not properly formed and her brain was primitive, although capable of sustaining life....The doctors had little doubt about what had to be done, but the parents, devout Catholics who had come to Britain to consult leading specialists in conjoined twins, were not prepared to agree to the ending of Mary's life, even though it would be the saving of Jodie's. ... The case went to the high court which ordered that the separation should go ahead, and then it quickly went to the court of appeal, where judges admitted that they had been faced with an agonising decision.*

Using the knowledge you have acquired in the study of Roman Catholic Moral theology explain why the Maltese couple objected to the doctor's proposal to separate the twins.

**Question Five**

Discuss the value of a human being in African moral thought and practice, as expressed in the following adage:

*It is the human being that counts: I call upon gold, it answers not; I call upon cloth, it answers not; it is the human being that counts (Akan proverb).*

To what extent is this maxim applicable to modern society?

**Question Six**

*Every major religious tradition contains ethical principles that are incompatible with total war (David Perry, 2000).*

Defend or refute the above assertion.

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