

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2017

TITLE OF PAPER : RELIGIOUS THOUGHT AND SOCIAL CONTEXT

COURSE CODE : TRS 211

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

Explain what it means to say that 'God is good'. What are the philosophical questions that are raised by this statement?

[25]

QUESTION TWO

'Moral awareness has nothing to do with a god.'

Discuss the extent to which you agree with the above assertion.

[25]

QUESTION THREE

'If there is a God who is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, and completely good, why is there evil on earth?' Discuss the different views of philosophers on this question. Which perspective makes sense to you and why?

[25]

QUESTION FOUR

Critically examine William James' argument that the nature of religious experience proves the existence of God.

[25]

QUESTION FIVE

'Whether the function of religion in society is the promotion of social harmony or social conflict is, as yet, an unresolved debate'.

Explain and evaluate this statement with reference to sociological theories and studies.

[25]

QUESTION SIX

“Religious people should never go to war.”

Using the knowledge you have acquired on religion and conflict, either agree or dispute the above statement. In your answer you should refer to at least one religion as an example.

[25]
