

COURSE CODE TRS101 (M) 2018

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER 2018

THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

B.A / B.ED IV / IDE

TITLE OF PAPER: PHENOMENOLOGY OF RELIGION

COURSE CODE: TRS101

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS, AT LEAST ONE (1) QUESTION MUST BE ATTEMPTED FROM EACH SECTION.
2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

TOTAL MARKS : 60

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

SECTION A

- 1 . What is religion? Explain the problems of defining religion.
- 2 . Explain the differences between theological and non-theological approaches to the study of religion. Which approach do you prefer? Give reasons for your preference.
- 3 . “Phenomenologists of religion contend that religion is like a living organism in the sense that it can stand on its own” (Nyaundi 2003). Discuss this statement and show whether or not it is possible for religion to stand on its own.

SECTION B

- 4 . Describe the distinctive features of African Religion from a phenomenological perspective, showing whether or not African Religion shapes the thoughts and behaviour of many Africans in contemporary African society. Give relevant examples to illustrate your answer.
- 5 . “Hinduism is a decentralised religion” (Kinsely 1983). Explain this statement, giving pertinent examples in support of your answer.
- 6 . Describe the fundamental doctrines of Buddhism and show how they differ from Hinduism.
- 7 . Describe what Muslims mean by the declaration that “Muhammad is the seal of the Prophets”.
- 8 . Explain the similarities and differences between the Baha’i Faith and Islam.