

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2018

TITLE OF PAPER : RELIGIOUS THOUGHT AND SOCIAL CONTEXT

COURSE CODE : TRS 206

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

MARKS : 75

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. 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.

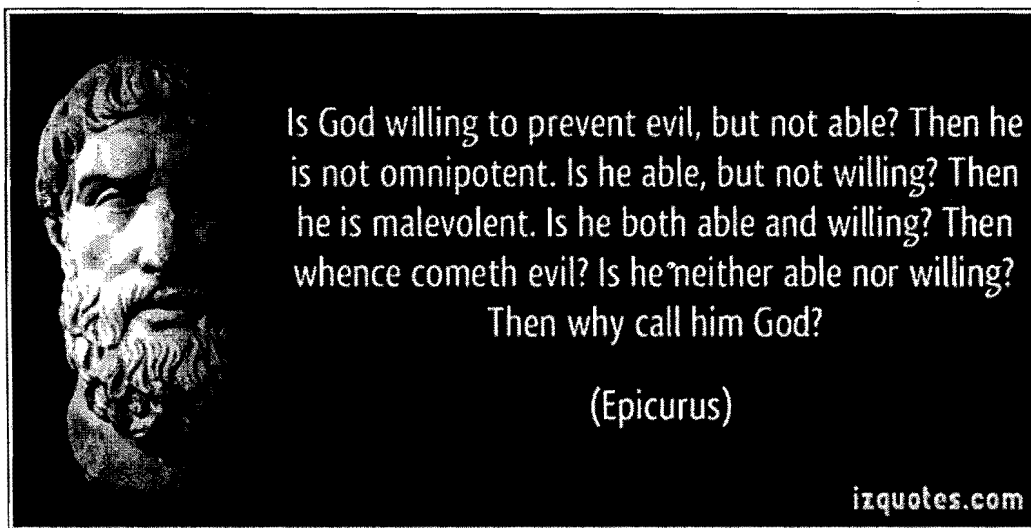
QUESTION ONE

'Some see religion as diminishing in power and importance in the modern world.... whilst others argue that religion remains a significant force, albeit in new and unfamiliar forms' (Giddens 2005).

Which side of the debate over the secularization thesis do you support, and why?

[25]

QUESTION TWO



With reference to this quote demonstrate the extent at which John Stuart Mill agrees with it in his view about the problem of evil.

[25]

QUESTION THREE

Explain how Ludwig Feuerbach's atheism influenced the theories of Karl Marx on religion.

[25]

QUESTION FOUR

Explain William James' argument for the existence of God from religious experience.

[25]

QUESTION FIVE

Religious pluralism can be defined as 'respecting the otherness of others'.

What is your understanding of this statement?

[25]

QUESTION SIX

"The United Nations has done more to promote world peace than religion has".

Refer to at least one religion to agree or dispute the above assertion.

[25]

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