

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

TRS 304 SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, JULY 2018

TITLE OF PAPER : AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION II

COURSE CODE : TRS 304

DURATION : 2 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer three (3) questions in all.
2. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.
3. The paper consists of three (3) printed pages including the cover page.
4. All questions carry equal marks.

DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR GRANTS YOU PERMISSION TO DO SO.

Question 1

“*Bungoma* is the indigenous African institution of divination in which exceptionally talented individuals are believed to be called by the ancestors and God to serve their respective communities as spiritual leaders, healers, social workers, counsellors and defenders of cultural heritage” (Ndlovu 2011). Write a critique of the assertion with specific reference to any two African Religions that you have studied.

Question 2.

What is meant by “Divine Kingship”? Illustrate your answer with relevant examples drawn from any two contemporary African monarchies.

Question 3

Explain the importance of rites of passage in the study of African Religion. Give examples from several contemporary societies to illustrate your answer.

Question 4

“Swazi society is characterised by an assumption, based on culture, of an inherent superiority of men over women which results in treating women as inferior to men and violating their human rights” (Kasenene 1994). Explain this statement and indicate the extent to which the author’s observation applies to practitioners of Swazi Religion.

Question 5

Giving cross-cultural examples, examine the extent to which the ethics of African Religion does address current moral issues such as human dignity, equality and tolerance.

Question 6

Discuss the interactions between Swazi Religion and Christianity, with particular reference to annual national ceremonies.