

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

TRS 308 MAIN EXAMINATION, MAY 2018

TITLE OF PAPER : AFRICAN RELIGION: PAST AND PRESENT

COURSE CODE : TRS 308

DURATION : 2 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer three (3) questions in all.
2. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.
3. You must acknowledge your sources.
4. All questions carry equal marks.

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

Question 1

What do we learn from the call, training and healing techniques of **tangoma/izangoma/dingaka/n'angas** (diviners) about key beliefs and ethics of African Religion? Draw specific examples from at least two different contemporary African societies to illustrate your views.

Question 2

Critically assess the place of puberty rituals in contemporary African society. Draw specific examples from at least two different contemporary African societies to illustrate your views.

Question 3

Drawing specific examples from at least two different case studies, explain the meaning(s) of sacred monarchies in contemporary African societies. What, in your opinion, is the proper function of sacred monarchies today?

Question 4

Traditional African Religion reinforces (directly and indirectly) patriarchal and sexist traditions, norms and values that prevail in contemporary African society. What steps need to be taken to promote gender equality in our day and age?

Question 5

What does African Religion teach about relations between humanity and the natural environment? Give relevant examples to illustrate your answer.

Question 6.

“Ubuntu lies at the heart of the African ethical system, and indeed African religion” (Bennet & Patrick 2011). Write a critique of this claim.