

University of Swaziland
Faculty of Humanities &
Institute of Distance Education
Department of Theology and Religious Studies

2017/2018 Main Examination Paper December 2017

Course code: TRS 404
Course title: Religion an Ideology in Contemporary Africa I
Duration: Two (2) hours

Instructions

- a. Choose and answer three (3) questions in all.
- b. Your answers should be structured, focused and clear.
- c. Indicate on the top cover page of your answer script the name of your programme and your mode of study (full time or distance education).

NB: All questions are worth 25 marks.

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

TRS 404 Religion and Ideology in Contemporary Africa I (M) December 2017

1. Analyse points of evidence for tolerance and tension between Muslims and Christians in Sub-Saharan Africa as presented in the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life Research Report (2010).
2. Assess the trends in policy responses by West African governments to the incidence of religious radicalisation and violent extremism as identified by Ismail (2013).
3. With reference to relevant evidence from other literature you have read in the course, analyse how the following quote demonstrates the intersection between religion and ideology in contemporary Ghana.

There is no denying that religion permeates the social fabric of Ghanaian society. In every corner there is a church or three filled with congregants either offering praise and thanks to God or asking for some miracle to happen in their lives. Events and meetings, even national occasions are started with and ended with prayer. This phenomenon does not end at social gatherings. It spills into the politics of the country such that any politician who claims to be non-religious or without faith and belief in God is likely to be met with disapproval and most likely will not survive the political terrain. (Boifio, 2014:2).

4. Give brief annotations to the various theories provided by researchers on the causes of violent extremism of the Boko Haram in Nigeria.
 5. Analyse the changing role of the mainline churches in the public life of Kenya between the late 1980s and the post-election crisis of 2008.
 6. What are some of the explanatory factors that lie behind the deepening state-religious tensions and inter- and intra-religious conflicts that have ensued since 1985 in Tanzania?
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