

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2019

TITLE OF PAPER : RELIGIOUS THOUGHT AND SOCIAL CONTEXT

COURSE CODE : TRS 206/IDE 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 1

*Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.*
(Psalms 139: 7-8, NRSV)

Discuss the philosophical questions raised by the above cited verse, with regards to divine omnipresence.

[25]

QUESTION 2

"...if the universe was ruled by a moral God, we would expect fairness. We don't see this fairness, which makes it less likely that God exists...." (John Stuart Mill, 2010: 99)

To what extent do you agree with John Stuart Mill assertion? Cite other philosophical perspectives to support your standpoint.

[25]

QUESTION 3

Demonstrate how the sociological arguments of Emile Durkheim, Max Weber and Karl Marx on religion complement one another.

[25]

QUESTION 4

"...therefore we may establish it as a maxim, that no human testimony can have such force as to prove a miracle, and make it a just foundation for any system of religion" (David Hume in Lawrence Shapiro, 2016).

To what extent do you agree or dispute David Hume's argument against the authenticity of miracles in religion.

[25]

QUESTION 5

What are the philosophical implications of the pluralistic approach to religious diversity?

[25]

QUESTION 6

With reference to any war-torn country in Africa explain the extent at which religion is responsible.

[25]
