

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
&

FACULTY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

TRS 101 MAIN EXAMINATION, DECEMBER 2015

TITLE OF PAPER : Introducing the study of religion
COURSE CODE : TRS 101
DURATION : 2 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Choose and answer three (3) questions in all.
2. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.
3. The paper consists of four (4) 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

Psychoanalytic approaches view religion as a conduit providing some kind of compensation necessary to relieve unbearably heavy toll on human psychology (e.g. Sigmund Freud, *The Future of an illusion* (1989)). Is this true? Critically discuss this position illustrating your answer with good examples.

Question 2

With special reference to the global divide pertaining to homosexuality, discuss the significance, if any, of Hunter (1991)'s culture war thesis. [20]

Question 3

Highlight key theological beliefs and practices in any two Abrahamic religions and show how these have shaped inter-religious relationships today. [20]

Question 4

Explain *epoché* as one of the key component in phenomenology of religion showing the limitations of this concept in the study of religious phenomena. [20]

Question 5

Using examples to support your views, critique **either** (a) ontological **or** (b) teleological arguments put forward to justify the belief or disbelief in the existence of God. [20]

Question 6

Why is it necessary to approach religious claims with greater suspicion? Illustrate your response with examples from at least two religious traditions. [20]