

COURSE CODE TRS401 (M) 2017

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER 2017

THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

B.A / B.ED IV / IDE

TITLE OF PAPER: RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD II

COURSE CODE: TRS401

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS

2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

TOTAL MARKS : 60

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY  
THE INVIGILATOR

1. "Buddhism is essentially a moral system of self-help, a system which believes that a human being's salvation lies in a moral, self-disciplined and contemplative life" (Omoregbe 1991). Write a critique of this observation basing your arguments on your understanding of the Buddhist doctrine of The Four Noble Truths.

2. "Confucian norms for behaviour, written in the spring of the ancient cultural system, are very much alive in the winter of the modern present" (Saso 1997). Explain this statement and discuss the areas of convergence and divergence between Confucian and Taoist values.

3. "Shinto has a highly complex history of its own. It resists systematic portrayal" (Reid 1997). Give a critique of this claim with special reference to the distinctive features of Shinto.

4. "God is most great.  
God is most great.  
I testify that Muhammad is the Prophet of God.  
Arise and pray;  
God is most great.  
God is most great.  
There is no god but God". (Smith 1991).

Explain this testimony with reference to the core doctrines of Islam that you have studied. Comment on the social implications of this testimony in our day and age.

5. Discuss the points of convergence and divergence between Islam and the Baha'i Faith.

6. "People of all faiths have held hands to support and comfort each other and join together in prayer. We need to continue to hold hands as we shape a more just and peaceful society" (Braybrooke 2004). Discuss this observation critically, and propose a model or models of forging mutual interfaith relations and peace in contemporary society.