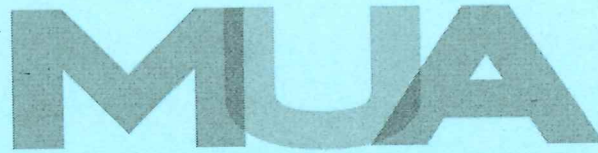


The
Management
University
of Africa



Sponsored by the Kenya Institute of Management

UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

RES 400: AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION

DATE: 3RD DECEMBER 2024

DURATION: 2 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 70

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided.

QUESTION ONE

Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

AFRICAN RELIGION

African religion belongs to each people within which it has evolved. The religion is not preached from one people to another, as such, a person must be born in a particular African people in order to be able to follow African religion in that group. Interestingly, unlike other religions, African religion cannot be transplanted to a different society outside Africa unless African peoples themselves go there with it. Even within Africa, itself, the religion takes on different forms according to different tribal settings. People of Europe, America or Asia cannot be converted to African religion as it is so much removed from their geographical and cultural settings.

African religion gives its followers a sense of security in life. The religion provides the religious way of life to the adherents, they know what they are, how to act in different situations and how to solve their problems. This does not mean that African religion has no weakness and no false ideas. The religion supplies answers to many of the problems of life even if it may not have right answers in every case, due to its influence to mankind, people are not willing to abandon it as they would feel insecure.

When Africans are converted to other religions they still mix their traditional religion they still mix their traditional religion with the one to which they think and feel that they are not losing something valuable, but are gaining something from both religious systems.

African religion functions more on a communal than individual basis. Its beliefs are held by the community. The ceremonies are performed mainly in groups of the family, by relatives, by the whole population of one area or by those engaged in a common occupation.

The African religion influence covers all of life, from before birth of a person at death. The religion is taught informally to their children through conversation, proverbs and myths and practices. Unlike some of the world religions i.e. Christianity and Islam or Buddhism, African religion has no founder, it simply evolved slowly through many centuries as people responded to life situations and

reflected on their experiences. African religion has no sacred books. The people follow it as it has been handed down to them by former generations, changing whatever is necessary in order to suit their circumstances in life.

Required:

- a) Based on the case study, propose five factors that must have played a role in the development of African religion. **(10 Marks)**
- b) African religion has no sacred writings. Analyze five areas African religion can be found. **(5 Marks)**
- c) The belief in spirits characterizes African religion. Justify with three reasons **(3 Marks)**
- d) Like any other world religious African religion has religious leaders. Assess four major functions they perform. **(4 Marks)**
- e) African religion has since had misconceptions written by outsiders. Propose any three **(3 Marks)**

QUESTION TWO

- a) Religion provides mankind with moral values by which to live. Analyze five ways this can be applied in African religion. **(5 Marks)**
- b) The coming of Christianity as a religion has had impact on African religion. Justify. **(10 Marks)**

QUESTION THREE

- a) Citing appropriate examples exam two major forms of communication in African religion **(5 Marks)**
- b) Assess the role of the following in African religion.
 - (i) Prophets
 - (ii) Sacred Kings and Queens
 - (iii) Priests **(6 Marks)**
- c) (i) Examine the concept of death in African religion. **(1 Marks)**

- (ii) Propose three significances of the rites of death **(3 Marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

- a) African religion like other religions performs rites of passage. With reference to the Agikuyu, propose three major rites between marriage and death at old age. **(6 Marks)**
- b) Propose three significance of African religious rites of initiation to adulthood **(6 Marks)**
- (c) Suggest any three function of African religion to demonstrate solidarity in the communities **(3 Marks)**

QUESTION FIVE

- a) African Religion is characterized by three important principles in the life of a community. Analyze any three. **(6 Marks)**
- b) Analyze five socio- religious institutions applied to achieve goals in the principles (a) above **(9 Marks)**

QUESTION SIX

- a) African peoples' belief in God is at the center of African Religious life. Propose three explanations to the origin of man's belief in God. **(6 Marks)**
- b) African religious insights have formulated ideas about the nature of God and this differentiates Him from other things he made. Citing examples. Justify. **(4 Marks)**
- c) Analyze five issues affecting the practice of African religions in the modern society **(5 Marks)**