



# THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA

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**MAIN EXAMINATION**

**SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2019 TRIMESTER**

**FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**REGULAR PROGRAMME**

**BRS 100: INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION**

**Date: DECEMBER 2019**

**Duration: 2 Hours**

**INSTRUCTIONS: Answer Question ONE and any other TWO Questions**

Q1. a) The concept “religion” is familiar to us since we human beings are religious. Nevertheless, a definition of religion is yet to be found. So many times, we talk about definitions because “religion” is defined in different ways. In other words, a comprehensive definition of “religion” is hardly to be found. Why?

**(10 Marks)**

b) Religion is such a complex and varied human phenomenon that some sociologists prefer to avoid definitions and think of religion in terms of an ideal type. They say that *most* religions have *most* of the characteristics of the ideal type, but they need not have *all* of them. Discuss the characteristics of an ideal religion

**(8 Marks).**

c) Explain any four (4) theories of the origin of religion as stipulated by some anthropologist scholars **(12 Marks).**

Q2. Discuss the seven dimensions of religion as studied by Ninian Smart.

**(20 Marks)**

- Q3. Explain some TEN functions of religion. **(20 Marks)**
- Q4. The sources for most religions are the religious texts themselves; they primarily include books, pamphlets, sermons, and other contemporary writing by religious officials or members. Discuss the sacred books that stand out. **(20 Marks)**
- Q5. Discuss the various methods used by scholars to study religion today **(20 Marks)**

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