



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

WRITTEN COMPREHENSIVE

Date: DECEMBER 2019

Duration: 3 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer ANY THREE Questions

- Q1. “As I celebrate among you and wish you the Eucharist of our Lord Jesus Christ, I wish us to find in it peace with our fellow man. Peace: the fruit of justice. Peace: the fruit of love. How easily this peace is broken! How often people are divided among themselves, even though they are physically close, even in the same family! May Christ give us the ability to remain at peace with **OTHERS. MAY THERE BE REALIZED IN US THE WORDS OF HIS SERMON ON THE MOUNT: BLESSED ARE THE PEACE makers**” (John Paul II, Prayer during his pastoral visit to the Roman Parish of St. Giovanni Battista dei Fiorentini March 8, 1981). In relation to this quotation discuss some situations in the history of the Church between 8th and 17th centuries that endangered peace in the Church and Society.
- Q2. With reference to the upsurge of New Religious Movements in Africa, analyze John S. Mbiti's view that Africa is a dumping heap of religions.
- Q3. What is the essence of carrying out research on religion related issues?
- Q4. History is something good. It reminds us of our past thus connecting us to past events, experiences and memories. With reference to at least three world

religions, identify some underlying past experiences showing how they influence the life of its adherents today.

ANSWER EITHER QUESTION 5

Q5. “Without religion there is no moral education worthy of the name or really effective, since the very nature and force of every obligation derive from those special duties which unite man with God, with God who commands, who prohibits and who gives sanction for good and evil. For this reason to want souls imbued with good morals and at the same time leave them lacking in religion is something as meaningless as just calling on one to live virtuously after having undermined the basis” (Leo XIII, Encyclical Letter: *Affari Vos*, 8 Dec. 1897, in *Acta Leonis Pontificis Maximi, Romae*, 17 (1898) 336-345). Discuss this statement in relation to the challenges facing Religious Education in the globalized society of the current century.

OR QUESTION 6

Q6. **Secularisation Theory** is the theory in sociology that as society advances in modernity, religion retreats and becomes increasingly hollow. The theory holds that intellectual and scientific developments have undermined the spiritual, supernatural, superstitious and paranormal (supernatural) ideas on which religion relies for its legitimacy, and, the differentiation of modern life into different compartments (i.e. work, politics, society, education and knowledge, home-time, entertainment) have relegated religion to merely *one part* of life, rather than an all-pervading narrative. As this continues, religion becomes more and more shallow, surviving for a while on empty until loss of active membership forces it into obscurity - although most theorists only hold this happens for *organized public religion, not for private spirituality*. However, the world is not secularising evenly. Academicians can be found asking: *"Is the situation best captured by secularization theory, or by the notion of resurgence of spirituality? By the decline in traditional religiosity, or by the upsurge of fundamentalism?"*

- a) Explain some of the exceptions to secularisation (even in the developed world) that are pronounced enough to count as evidence against Secularisation Theory.
- b) Give the five manifestations of secularisation in the society today.
- c) Discuss some of the Anti-Religious forces the world is experiencing today.

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