



UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

JUNE 2014

COURSE: Religion 2A

TIME: 2 hours

QUESTION PAPER:
African Religion and Eastern
Religions

MARKS: 100

SUBJECT CODE: REL 2A11

EXAMINERS:

1. Prof H Viviers
2. Dr Maria Frahm-Arp

(THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF 2 PAGES)

3. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS
 4. USE TWO SEPARATE ANSWER SCRIPTS: ONE FOR SECTION A
AND ONE FOR SECTION B
 5. Write the Section Letter ('A' or 'B' at the top of the answer book, in the coloured
block)
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SECTION A: (African Religion - Prof Viviers)

QUESTION 1:

Write a paragraph in which you indicate why the term "traditional" is problematic. [5]

QUESTION 2:

Write a short essay on African ethics [10]

QUESTION 3:

Explicate in a short essay the Yoruba's view of a supreme deity, the *orisha* and nature and the
ancestral spirits [10]

QUESTION 4:

What contribution can African Religion make to contemporary society?

[5]

QUESTION 5:

Write a full essay in which you deliberate on the status of African Religion specifically in the African: Christian dialogue. Focus in your answer on the problem of "Jesus as an ancestor."

[20]

SECTION B: (Eastern Religions – Dr Maria Frahm-Arp)

Part 1

Each question is out of 10 marks and you must answer any THREE (3) questions.

You should spend about 12 minutes on each of the three questions you choose.

1. Explain the importance and meaning of moksha, samsara, dharma and karma in Hinduism.
2. Who are the three main deities in Hinduism and what are they believed to do for devotees?
3. Name some of the key sacred texts in Hinduism and explain what their central teachings are.
4. Who was the Buddha and what did he teach?
5. Explain the concepts sangha, dharma, nirvana and karma in Buddhism.
6. What was the lifestyle of the early Buddhist monks like and what were their goals?
7. Explain the origin and main teachings of Shintoism.
8. Who was Confucius and what were the central ideas of his teaching?

Part 2

You must answer all 10 questions.

Each question is worth 2 marks.

This section is out of 20 marks and you should spend about 20 minutes on it.

1. What is the Mahabharata?
2. Explain Atman is Brahman.
3. What is an avatar and give an example.
4. Who is Lord Ganesha and why do people pray to him?
5. What do people usually offer to their deities?
6. What is a Bodhisattva and give an example of one?
7. What are the four noble truths?
8. What is the importance of yoga in Eastern Religion?
9. What is Mahayana Buddhism?
10. What is the key idea of the Tao?