



# **UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG**

**JUNE 2016**

**COURSE:** Religion 2A

**TIME:** 2 hours

**QUESTION PAPER:**  
African Religion and Eastern Religions

**MARKS:** 100

**SUBJECT CODE:** REL 2A11

**EXAMINERS:**  
1. Dr Maria Frahm-Arp  
2. Prof H Viviers

**(THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF 2 PAGES)**

---

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

USE TWO SEPARATE ANSWER SCRIPTS: ONE FOR SECTION A (Eastern Religion) AND ONE FOR SECTION B (African Religions)

Write the Section Letter ('A' or 'B' at the top of the answer book, in the coloured block)

---

## **SECTION A: (Eastern Religions – Dr Maria Frahm-Arp)**

### **QUESTION 1:**

***Answer ONE of the following questions***

1.1 In a short essay explain the key themes or principles that underlay the Hindu worldview. (15)

1.2 Who are the main characters in the Bhagavadgita, what is the story about and what is the central message of the story? (15)

### **QUESTION 2:**

***Answer ONE of the following questions***

2.1 In an essay explain the life and teaching of the Buddha and how his personal story led to the establishment of Buddhism as a religion. (15)

2.2 In an essay explain the following concepts: nirvana, dharma, sangha, the 4 noble truths and a Bodhisattva. (15)

**QUESTION 3:**

***Answer any ONE of the following questions***

3.1 In an essay explain how Bourdieu's understanding of dispositions and taste can help us understand the role that religion plays in shaping how Hindu people see and experience their world. (20)

3.2 In an essay discuss the differences between Taoism and Confucianism and argue why you think the one would be a better way to manage power than the other. Use Foucault's concepts of power to make your argument. (20)

---

**SECTION B: (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 an 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."

[10]

**QUESTION 6:**

Define the African worldview of Ubuntu and refer to the values undergirding this "ideology." [5]

**QUESTION 7:**

Why is African womanism an appropriate tool to appreciate Ubuntu? Explicate in a paragraph [5]