



UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF ARTS RELIGION

RELI 842: RITES OF PASSAGE IN AFRICA

STREAMS: MA (RELI) (PART-TIME)

TIME: 2 HOURS

DAY/DATE: FRIDAY 20/12/2024

2.30 P.M. – 4.30 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question ONE and any other THREE from the list provided

1. A) Analyze the role of religious rituals and ceremonies in African societies, particularly in the context of rites of passage. How do these rituals function to reinforce cultural and religious values? [5 marks]
 2. Examine the religious and cultural importance of fertility rites in African societies. How do these rituals reflect the community's relationship with the natural world, spirituality, and continuity of life? [15 marks]
 3. Discuss the gender-specific nature of certain African rites of passage. What are the social and religious implications of rituals performed exclusively by men or women, and how do they reinforce gender roles within traditional societies? [15 marks]
 4. Examine the function of communal participation in African rites of passage. How do rituals such as marriage or initiation ceremonies contribute to social cohesion and collective identity in traditional African communities? [15 marks]
 5. In what ways can African rites of passage be adapted and applied in contemporary African life, particularly in urban contexts? [15 marks]
 6. Critically assess the impact of globalization and modernity on the practice of African rites of passage. How have these external forces influenced the retention, adaptation, or loss of traditional ceremonies? [15 marks]
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