

The  
Management  
University  
of Africa



Sponsored by the Kenya Institute of Management

**UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**

**SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP**

**DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS**

**RES 231: COMPARATIVE RELIGION**

**DATE: 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**

**DURATION: 2 HOURS**

**MAXIMUM MARKS: 70**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. **Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided**

**QUESTION ONE**

**Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

Religion is a range of social-cultural systems, including designated behaviors and practices, morals, beliefs, worldviews, texts, sanctified places, prophecies, ethics, or organizations, that generally relate humanity to supernatural, transcendental, and spiritual elements—although there is no scholarly consensus over what precisely constitutes a religion. Different religions may or may not contain various elements ranging from the divine, sacredness, faith, and a supernatural being or beings.

There are an estimated 10,000 distinct religions worldwide, though nearly all of them have regionally based relatively small followings. Four religions—Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism—account for over 77% of the world's population, and 92% of the world either follows one of those four religions or identifies as nonreligious, meaning that the remaining 9,000+ faiths account for only 8% of the population combined. The religiously unaffiliated demographic includes those who do not identify with any particular religion, atheists, and agnostics, although many in the demographic still have various religious beliefs.

Many world religions are also organized religions, most definitively including the Abrahamic religions Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, while others are arguably less so, in particular folk religions, indigenous religions, and some Eastern religions. Portions of the world's population are members of new religious movements. Scholars have indicated that global religiosity may be increasing due to religious countries having generally higher birth rates. Religion involves beliefs and behaviours that fulfil the requirements of a society. Religion is also cultural as well as universal as it is found in all communities in one form or the other.

Religion's existence in human civilization is one of the most persistent social phenomena that stimulate sociological analysis; it is intertwined with the fabric of daily social life. Religion appears to have a stabilizing effect in society, yet it has also been used to foment hatred and commit crimes against humanity. It has been a primary source of justification for inequality and exploitation. Religion exists as an institution in every community. Sociologists have attempted to comprehend the different meanings that religion provides to humans. Its importance in the

organization of social life is enormous. It appears to assist people in approaching and dealing with life's crises.

The world's primary religions fall into two categories: Abrahamic religions, such as Christianity, Judaism, and Islam; and Indian religions, which include Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and others. Of the world's major religions, Christianity is the largest, with more than two billion followers.

Christianity is based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and is approximately 2,000 years old. Its largest groups are the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox churches, and the Protestant churches, and its sacred text is the Bible. Over the centuries, Christianity grew in numbers as it spread around the world, often through missionaries and colonizers.

The origin of religious belief is an open question, with possible explanations including awareness of individual death, a sense of community, and dreams.<sup>[8]</sup> Religions have sacred histories, narratives, and mythologies, preserved in oral traditions, sacred texts, symbols, and holy places, that may attempt to explain the origin of life, the universe, and other phenomena.

Religious practices may include rituals, sermons, commemoration or veneration (of deities or saints), sacrifices, festivals, feasts, trances, initiations, matrimonial and funerary services, meditation, prayer, music, art, dance, or public service.

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**Required:**

- a) Describe five elements in African religion which are related to Christian teachings. **(5 marks)**
- b) Compare and contrast Christian belief in resurrection with Hindus view of reincarnation. **(10 marks)**
- c) Examine five factors responsible for the fast spread of Islam. **(10 marks)**

**QUESTION TWO**

- a) Examine five challenges of interfaith dialogue. **(5 marks)**
- b) Describe the origin and development of Confucianism. **(10 marks)**

**QUESTION THREE**

- a) Propose any five functions performed by religion in contemporary societies. **(5 marks)**
- b) Illustrating your presentations with examples from different religions, analyze five dimensions of religion. **(10 marks)**

**QUESTION FOUR**

- a) Describe Egyptian religion sharing its beliefs, rituals and practices. **(10 marks)**
- b) Describe religion according to Emile Durkheim. **(5 marks)**

**QUESTION FIVE**

- a) Examine the concept of salvation in Hinduism. **(5 marks)**

- b) Analyze five beliefs and practices borrowed by Christianity from Greek philosophy. **(10 marks)**

**QUESTION SIX**

- a) Explore five core beliefs of Sikhism. **(5 marks)**
- b) Examine the concept of ancestors in Traditional African religions. **(10 marks)**