

The
Management
University
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UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

RES 215: SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

DATE: 3RD APRIL 2025

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 involves beliefs and behaviors that fulfill 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. While some people think of religion as something individual because religious beliefs can be highly personal, religion is also a social institution. Social scientists recognize that religion exists as an organized and integrated set of beliefs, behaviours, and norms centred on basic social needs and values. Moreover, religion is a cultural universal found in all social groups. For instance, in every culture, funeral rites are practised in some way, although these customs vary between cultures and within religious affiliations. Despite differences, there are common elements in a ceremony marking a person's death, such as announcement of the death, care of the deceased, disposition, and ceremony or ritual. These universals, and the differences in how societies and individuals experience religion, provide rich material for sociological study. In studying religion, sociologists distinguish between what they term the experience, beliefs, and rituals of a religion. **Religious experience** refers to the conviction or sensation that one is connected to "the divine."

This type of communion might be experienced when people are praying or meditating. **Religious beliefs** are specific ideas that members of a particular faith hold to be true, such as that Jesus Christ was the son of God, or believing in

reincarnation. Another illustration of religious beliefs is that different religions adhere to certain stories of world creation. **Religious rituals** are behaviors or practices that are either required or expected of the members of a particular group, such as bar mitzvah or confession.

Required:

- a) Analyze five roles played by structural elements of religion in sustaining religion in the society. (5 marks)
- b) Examine five roles played by religion in politics. (10 marks)
- c) Evaluate five impacts of religious conflicts on society. (10 marks)

QUESTION TWO

- a) Using relevant examples, examine the relationship between religion and society. (5 marks)
- b) Explore the place of the family as an agency of religion in the society. (10 marks)

QUESTION THREE

- a) Propose any five functions performed by religion in the contemporary societies. (5 marks)
- b) With special reference to sociology of religion, analyze the social interactionist theory of religion. (10 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- a) Examine five ways the educational institutions in the society aid in spreading of religious beliefs and values among learners. (10 marks)
- b) Explain five cultural practices which have been retained by Africans who have converted to either Christianity or Islam. (5 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- a) Evaluate any **five** sources of social change. (10 marks)
- b) Give **five** practical examples how religion oppresses women. (5 marks)

QUESTION SIX

- a) Analyze the view that religion is a catalyst of change in the society. (5 marks)
- b) Assess the relationship between religion and development. (10 marks)