



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

**FIRST SEMESTER 2022/2023 EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF ARTS AND BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)**

ARE 200: COMPARATIVE RELIGION

DATE:

TIME:

Instructions: Answer question ONE and any other two.

1. (a) Explain the importance of the study of Comparative Religion. (10 marks).
(b) Show the importance of Middle East as the source of main religions of the world (10 marks)
(c) With reference to beliefs and practices, compare Judaism to Christianity. (10 marks)
2. (a) Examine the contribution of religion to the contemporary society. (10 marks)
(b) In what ways does Confucianism compare with the African Traditional Religion in the belief and veneration of the ancestors?
3. Choose Either Buddhism or Islam and describe the following:
(a) Origin and development (10 marks)
(b) Beliefs and practices (10 marks)
4. (a) Discuss the seven dimensions of religion as propounded by Ninian Smart. (10 marks)
(b) Giving relevant examples show how ancient religions came to influence modern religions. (10 marks).
5. (a) Hinduism is more of orthopraxy rather than Orthodoxy. Explain
(b) Shintoism is a religion of many gods, spirits and shrines. Explain whether it may be classified as Polytheistic (belief in many gods) or Pantheistic (belief that god is in everything).