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Signature.....

Date.....

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA



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**B.A/BSC SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS 2017/2018  
DEPARTMENT FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS**

**UGRC 132: UNDERSTANDING HUMAN SOCIETIES: RELIGION AND SOCIETIES  
(3 CREDITS)**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

**A) ATTEMPT ALL QUESTIONS.**

**B) Write Your Answers in the Spaces Provided on the Question Paper**

**TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS**

1. In not more than three lines, explain the difference between the terms *religious function* and *religious performance* in the modern society. (3 marks)

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2. Ghana is ruled by a secular constitution, so why do we describe Ghana as a religiously pluralistic country? Provide your answer in two sentences. (2 marks)

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3. In two sentences, explain how Charles Darwin's theory of evolution contributed to the theories on the origin of religion. (3 marks)

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4. In not more than four (4) lines, explain what is meant by secularisation thesis. (3 marks)

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5. Identify and explain any two problems in the definition of religion. (3 marks)

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6. Identify the scholar who defined religion as "a mystery at once awesome and attractive".  
Evaluate his view that religion is awesome and attractive. (3 marks)

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7. What do you understand by Primitive Religion? (2 marks)

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8. Explain three ways by which religion and religious groups can enhance a gender inclusive Ghanaian society. (3 marks)

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9.\* Explain Ninian Smarts' Ritual dimension of religion (2 marks)

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10. Identify two reasons why some people argue that morality should *not* be grounded on religion. (3 marks).

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11. Why do some scholars think that the origin of religion is pre-animism? (3 marks)

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12. In three sentences, discuss the notion that secularisation impinges on the social significance of religion rather than the religiosity of societies. (3 marks)

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13. Explain two indicators of the dominance of religion at the national level in Ghana. (3 marks)

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14. Briefly discuss one role of religion in Ghana's 4<sup>th</sup> Republic politics. (2 marks)

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15. Give the difference between inter and intra religious conflicts. (3 marks)

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16. Politicians in Ghana use religious slogans and language in their campaign messages.

Give one reason that account for this phenomenon? (3 marks)

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17. Explain two methods scholars have used in defining religion. (3 marks)

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18. Examine two reasons why women have low representation in leadership positions within religions. (3 marks)

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19. "While almost everyone is born with a particular sex and we are either male or female, we are not born with a gender, but grow into one, or are given." (Adomako-Ampofo, 2013: 95). Briefly comment on this statement. (3 marks)

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20. Briefly discuss the notion that the experiential dimension of religion is central to all religions. (3 marks)

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21. Explain why people within a religious group may become close-minded as they coexist with other religions. (3 marks)

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22. Explain one challenge that a student studying religion may face. (2 marks)

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23. Identify one importance of religion in our societies. (3 marks)

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24. Show how exclusivism can influence inter-faith relations. (3 marks)

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25. Discuss how customs can cause conflicts between religions. (3 marks)

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