

# UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

TRS 125

## SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS FEBRUARY 2019

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Time: 1 ½ Hours  
Subject: Religion Studies  
Paper: Nature and role of religion and introduction to the study of religion.  
Marks: 50

This paper consists of 2 pages including the cover page

### Internal Examiners

Prof R De W Oosthuizen  
Mr LJ Bookholane

### External Examiners

### Instructions

Answer two (2) Questions  
Kindly visibly number your answers  
Please write as neatly and legibly as possible  
Return question paper to invigilator

**Question 1:        Either**

- 1.1            Briefly describe the five paradigms identified by Catherine Bell (2006) that have shaped our current notion of religion and the academic study of religion. (25)

**Or**

- 1.2            According to Taves (2010:171) "Collaboration between scholars of religion and scientists only makes sense if we can identify a shared object of study that we think we will understand more fully if we approach it from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, including those of the natural sciences".

Discuss, with specific reference to the proposed "building block approach to the study of religion" (Taves 2010).

(25)

**Question 2:**

According to Beyers (2009:2) "There are many traps on the road to defining religion. A definition that is too broad (a maximum definition) would include elements not usually associated with religion. One that is too narrow (a minimal definition) would exclude those elements that are normally accepted as religion".

Discuss, with specific reference to an African understanding of religion. (25)

**Question 3:**

According to Höllinger et al (2007:133) "the role of religion in the modern world continues to attract attention both in the social sciences and within the general public."

Discuss, with specific reference to the four general functions which are being fulfilled by religion and the churches within society.

(25)

**[50]**