



**NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA**  
**91 Cadastral Zone, Nnamdi Azikiwe Express Way, Jabi-Abuja**  
**FACULTY OF ARTS**  
**2020\_2 EXAMINATION...**

**PROGRAMME: M. A. CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**COURSE CODE: CRS 852**

**COURSE TITLE: SOCIAL THEORIES OF RELIGION**

**CREDIT UNIT: 3**

**TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS**

**INSTRUCTION: ANSWER QUESTIONS ONE AND ANY OTHER THREE QUESTIONS**

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1. If you were given the opportunity to define religion, how will you do this considering the complexities that undermine its universal appeal?

b. The relevance of religion has been put to test with the insurgence of various violence which often tarnishes the benefit religion ought to enjoy within the society. In this regard, it has been argued that religion is incompatible with the social order and no more relevant. Discuss this in view of your understanding of religion as a social phenomenon.

2. There are different theories that have been propounded to explain the origin of religion. How best do these theories explain the enigmatic nature of religion? List the theories and discuss at least any three theories to buttress your argument.

3. Religion, be it Christianity, Judaism, African traditional religion etc. possess elements that are very fundamental to its continued sustenance. In view of this, critically dilate on the structural elements that religion is made of.

4. Would you describe Nigeria as a secular nation? Justify your answer with vivid illustration

b. How should religion relate with the secular world and what effect does this have on religion?

5. Evaluate the concept of the family as a social institution

b. What are the types and patterns in a given society?

c. Elucidate on the ideal functions of the family within the society.