



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2020/2021 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

MAY-AUGUST SESSION EXAMINATION FOR

MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

ARE 504: RITES OF PASSAGE WITHIN AFRICAN COMMUNITIES IN KENYA

DATE: 2/9/2021

TIME: 8.30-11.30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer Question ONE and any TWO questions

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Explain the meaning of rites of passage in African religion and culture in relation: separation, transition, and incorporation (5 marks)
- b) What is the rationale by scholars to identify 4 rites of passage? (5 marks)
- c) How do you justify adhering of rites of passage in the Kenyan society even after converting to Christianity? (10 marks)
- d) What two aspects of rites of passage have become absorbed and then transformed into contemporary Kenyan culture? (10 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Citing relevant authorities, demonstrate the rationale of the naming rites

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

In the reading J. S. Mbiti's book, "African Religions and Philosophy":

- a) Illustrate the rationale of marriage. (10 marks)
- b) Explain the various forms of marriages in Kenyan cultures. (10 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

In a detail discuss either the philosophy that informs rites of initiation or death.

QUESTION FIVE

Basing yourself on either Wiredu or Mbiti, elaborate whether it is the philosophy or culture or religion that guides these rites of passage