RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FOR

STANDARD 6

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A ritual is a ceremonial action that is often performed in the same way in order to mark an important religious occasion.

A rite is defined as a patterned behaviour often communal consisting of prescribed actions performed periodically or repetitively.

RITUALS IN CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM AND AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS (ATR)

Rituals are practised in all religions including Christianity, Islam and African Traditional Religions.

A ritual may be an independent act in itself such as baptism in Christianity.

It may also be an act going along with a religious occasion such as the rituals of compassing the Ka'bah when performing Hajj in Islam.

In ATR, there are rituals that involve the offering of flour, intoxicants and slaughtered animals during sacrifice at a holy site such as when praying for rains to come.

A ritual may also be performed to mark stages in the life of an individual known as 'rites of passage'.

OCCASIONS AT WHICH SOME RITUALS ARE PERFORMED

- during drought
- during famine
- embracing Islam
- baptism
- birth of a baby
- initiation (chinamwali)
- marriage
- funeral

Religious rituals are performed at different occasions and situations.

During famine and droughts different religions such as Islam, Christianity and ATR perform different rituals in order to have rains.

Some rituals are also performed to mark the stages in the life of an individual.

The sacred events are known as the rites of passage.

When one joins a religion, certain rituals are performed to welcome that person.

In Islam, the Adhan is made to a newly-born baby to his or her right ear while the Iqaamah is made to her or his left ear.

Aqeeqah is performed for a new-born baby preferably after seven days.

UNIT 2 THE SIMILARITIES OF RITUALS IN DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

THE SIMILARITIES OF RITUALS IN ISLAM, CHRISTIANITY AND ATR

- People who belong to Islam, Christianity and ATR turn to God in prayers
- Islam and Christianity are similar in welcoming new comers to their religions.
- In ATR, members are welcomed in their society soon after their birth.

In some cases, there are similarities in the rituals in different religions.

Some of the rituals are commonly performed in Christianity, Islam and ATR during initiation, marriage and death.

In addition, Islam and Christianity are similar in welcoming new comers to their religions.

In Christianity, there is a holy event known as baptism.

In Islam, the occasion to welcome a new comer is known as 'embracing Islam'.

As for ATR, members are welcomed in their society soon after their birth. When the birth is born, the mother and the child remain secluded in the house till the umbilical cord drops.

Thereafter, the baby is bathed in water mixed with herbs to welcome him or her in the society.

This ritual is known as 'kutulutsa chikuta' in Chewa.

COMPOSITION OF SOME RITUALS IN ISLAM, CHRISTIANITY AND ATR

A ritual consists of symbolic actions, words or artifacts (objects).

For instance, during baptism in Christianity, the following words are said, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit”.

In Islam, one who is in the process of embracing Islam is made to recite the Shahadah.

Likewise in ATR, words of instruction are used during initiation ceremony (chinamwali).

Symbolic actions in Christianity may include kneeling, closing eyes, immersing in water or sprinkling water during baptism.

In Islam, the one who is in the process of embracing Islam is made to raise his or her right forefinger when the Shahadah is recited to him or her.

In ATR, women who are bereaved put on a head scarf to show that they are still in the mourning period.

UNIT 3 NAMES AND BELIEFS OF RELIGIONS IN MALAWI

NAMES OF RELIGIONS IN MALAWI

- Christianity
- ATR
- Islam
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Bahai

The most common religions among Malawians are Christianity, ATR and Islam.

THE COMMON BELIEFS OF RELIGIONS IN MALAWI

- Belief in one God
- Belief in life after death
- Belief about God as a creator
- Belief that God has angels

1. There is a belief in one God or monotheism.

This belief in one God is known as Tawhid in Islam.

It is a component of Five Pillars and the Articles of Faith in Islam (Quran 20:14, 112:1-4).

In Christianity, there is the concept of trinity which is the union of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

In ATR, members refer to God as the Supreme Spirit or Supreme Being.

They also believe in lesser spirits which are intermediaries between people on earth and the Supreme Spirit.

2. Belief in life after death.

The above religions also have a belief in life after death (Quran 2:4, 20:15, Mark 16:6).

In ATR, it is believed that the spirit of the spirit of the deceased joins the world of spirits and continues to exist.

3. Belief about God as the creator

In addition, there is a belief about God as the creator (Quran 2:21-22, 64:3, Genesis 1:27-29).

In ATR, God is believed to be the creator and that he continues creating the world.

4. Belief that God has angels

Finally, there is a belief that God has angels doing various duties as demanded by God. (Quran 82:10-12, 18:50, Luke 1:26-31).

UNIT 4 THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

BELIEFS IN DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

- One God
- God as the creator
- Life after death

THE IMPORTANCE OF BELIEFS IN VARIOUS RELIGIONS

- beliefs help members to have a clear understanding of who God is
- beliefs help members to be obedient to God
- beliefs help members to avoid committing a sin
- beliefs give members an opportunity to conserve the environment
- a belief in life after death helps members to regulate their behaviours to get a reward after death

THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT COMPLYING WITH RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

There are disadvantages if one does not comply with one's beliefs. Some of them are:

- poor relationship with God
- loss of membership of one's religion
- lack of respect for life
- no conservation of the environment
- violence against fellow persons
- engaging in immorality or mischief

UNIT 5 THE ORIGINS OF RELIGIONS IN MALAWI

ORIGINS OF RELIGIONS IN MALAWI

Every religion which is found in Malawi has its origin.

Origin of Christianity

The book of the Acts of the Apostles is the chief source of information about the origin of Christianity.

This religion was founded by Jesus Christ.

Its local centre was Capernaum (Mark 1:21; 2:1; 9:33) while Jerusalem was its main centre.

Jesus had his disciples who assisted him in preaching the word of God.

Jesus was crucified in AD 30. He resurrected and ascended to heaven on the Pentecost.

He empowered his disciples with the Holy Spirit to continue his work to the rest of the world.

It was in Antioch where the followers were first called Christians.

Origin of Islam

Islam was first started in 610 AD at Mount Hira when Muhammad received the first revelation of the Quran (Quran 96).

It was Angel Gabriel who was sent by God to deliver these revelations to Muhammad (Quran 53:1-6).

They were delivered to him for a period of 23 years.

These were compiled into a Quran which is the main source of Islam.

The first group of the converts or companions was his relatives and a few friends.

Among these companions were Khadijah, Ali, Zayd, Abu-Bakri and some members of Harrif group.

After his death in Medina, the religion was led by caliphs such as Abu Bakri, Umar, Uthman and Ali.

Origin of ATR

African Traditional Religions originated through the belief that Africans have one God.

Reflecting on the universe, Africans believe that the universe has a creator who is the Supreme Being.

This creator takes care of this creation.

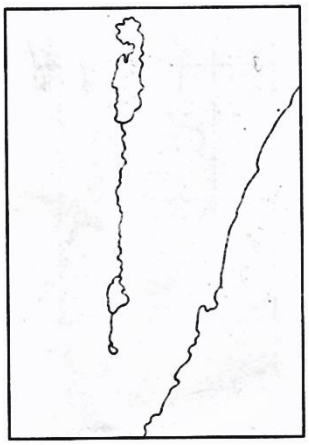
They also believe that this creator controls death, calamity and the forces of nature.

Because of this belief in God, Africans started worshipping God from time immemorial through various ways such as prayers, sacrifices and offerings.

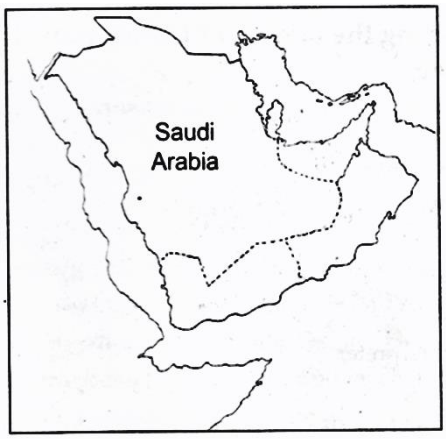
This religion was started by various religious leaders.

For example, in Malawi, people believe that Makewana at Msinja in Lilongwe, M'bona at Khuluvi in Nsanje and Chikang'ombe in Rumphi founded these religions in their communities.

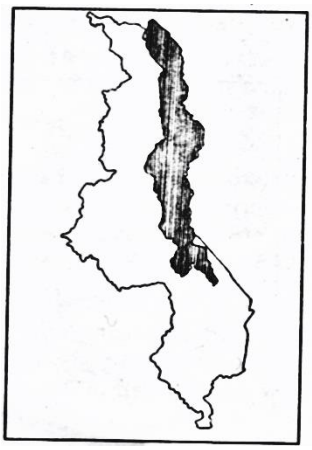
LOCATING THE PLACES OF ORIGINS OF CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM AND ATR



The place of origin of Christianity



The place of origin of Islam



The places of origins of ATR

UNIT 6 THE COMPOSITION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

COMPOSITION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The environment is composed of many things.

Some of these are animals, plants, soil, rocks, water and many others.

These were created by God and provided to people to use (Genesis 1:29; Quran 2:29).

God also created man and woman (Genesis 1:26-29; Quran 25:3) to be in charge of the environment.

He also gave them wisdom so that they can make other things such as houses, cars, roads, money, clothes, furniture, ships, aeroplanes and many others.

These things are made from the natural things which were created by God.

HOW PEOPLE USE THE ENVIRONMENT

According to the scriptures, the environment was used for the good of the people.

For example, Jesus used the soil to cure a blind man (John 9:6-7).

The Israelites also used soil to mould bricks.

Other ways in which people use the environment are as follows:

Resource	**Uses**
Water	- Domestic use - Irrigation - Transport - Home of some animals
Land	- Farming - Construction of houses - Grazing animals
Soil	- Construction - Farming
Cars	- Transport
Houses	- Shelter
Animals	- Transport - Food - Medicine - Manure - Decoration - Security
Plants	- Food - Medicine - Decoration - Shelter - Timber

UNIT 7 RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

RELIGIOUS STORIES ON HOW GOD CREATED THE ENVIRONMENT

Creation in Christianity

Christianity states that God created the heavens and the earth in six days.

The earth was void and without form, and darkness was upon it and the spirit of God was moving over the face of the face of the waters.

On the first day, God created day and night by just saying, "Let there be light". He separated the light from the darkness and called light 'day' and the darkness 'night'.

On the second day, he created the heaven by creating a firmament which separated the waters which were under it from the waters which were above it.

God called the firmament 'Heaven'.

On the third day, he created the land and the seas by gathering together all the waters into one place, hence letting the dry land appear. He called the dry land 'Earth' and the waters 'seas'.

On the earth, he created vegetation, plants and trees.

On the fourth day, he created lights in the heavens to separate the day from the night. These were the sun and the moon.

On the fifth day, he created sea creatures and birds. He blessed them to multiply.

On the sixth day, he created earth creatures according to their kinds. He also created two people, a man and a woman, in his own image.

He created them and blessed them to multiply and have dominion over creation.

God rested on the seventh day (Genesis 1: 1-31).

Creation in Islam

Islam teaches that God created the seven heavens and the earth and everything which is in them.

He raised the heavens without pillars. He spread out the earth and set on it mountains standing firm.

He also created rivers which provide water to other creatures.

He also created fruits of every kind.

He made every living thing from water.

He created the night and the day.

He also created a person which is a creature of haste (Surah 13:2-3, 17:43-44, 21:30-37).

Creation in ATR

There are many creation stories in ATR among the Chewa in Malawi.

The Kaphirintiwa myth is one of the stories which is widely known and gives an account of the beginning of life.

This myth says that in the beginning, there were Chiuta – God and the earth.

Chiuta lived above in the sky, and below him was the earth, waterless and without life.

One day, the sky opened and from it, Chiuta God, the first human pair and all the animals descended in a shower of rain.

They alighted on a flat-topped hill named Kaphirintiwa in Dzalanyama Mountains.

After their descent, the soft surface hardened and turned into a rock or mountain.

Plants and trees grew.

God, people and animals lived together in happiness and peace.

RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- God is the creator of the environment
- People are responsible stewards of creation
- Creation is a continuous process

All religions teach that God created the earth out of nothing and people are the responsible stewards of creation.

God provided a perfect environment to Adam and Eve for use and enjoyment.

They were also given the responsibility of caring for it (Genesis 2:15).

The understanding is that when people abuse the environment they commit a sin.

Humanity possesses dominion over creation.

People have to practise their stewardship in the manner God wanted it to be.

Their power should not be used to violate creation.

They should be responsible and faithful managers of God's estate.

ATR adds that creation is a continuous process.

It states that God continues to shape and reshape what he has created.

It also teaches that God looks after the universe.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- They associate God with creation
- They help people to appreciate the artistic work of God in creation
- They build in people a sense of responsibility to protect and take care of the environment
- They make people be aware of their duty to maintain the balance in nature
- People attribute the current processes that lead to shaping and reshaping the environment to God

Religious teaching	**Importance of the teaching**
God is the creator of the environment	- Associates God with creation - It helps people to appreciate the artistic work of God in creation
People are responsible stewards of creation	- It builds in people a sense of responsibility to protect and take care of the environment - People are aware of their duty to maintain the balance in nature
Creation is a continuous process	- People attribute the current processes that lead to shaping and reshaping the environment to God, for example, birth, vegetation, and so forth

UNIT 8 SOURCES AND SITES OF RITUALS IN DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

SOURCES OF RITUALS IN ISLAM, CHRISTIANITY AND ATR

- a person
- book
- document
- tradition
- scriptures

In Islam, rituals are taken or drawn from the Quran and Hadith.

Aqeeqah, one of the birth rituals in Islam, is taken from the Hadith.

The Hajj rituals are taken from both the Quran and Hadith (Quran 2:125, 2:128).

In Christianity, baptism rituals that include the use of water and the laying on of hands in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit have their source in the Bible (1 Corinthians 6:11; John 3:5)

Rituals in ATR were originally taken from oral traditions that are transmitted verbally from the old to the young generation.

Books may also be used as sources of rituals in ATR.

The table below shows some rituals and their sources

Name of religion	**Rituals**	**Sources**
African Traditional Religions	- birth - death - burial - initiation	- tradition - tradition - tradition - tradition
Christianity	- baptism - Eucharist (mgonero/misa) - wedding/marriage - initiation	- scriptures - scriptures - scriptures - tradition
Islam	- aqeeqah - ablution - Hajj - embracing Islam	- Hadith - Quran/hadith - Quran/hadith - Hadith

THE SITES OF RITUALS IN DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

The sites of rituals are specified places or areas where rituals are performed in different religions.

Christianity

In Christianity, for instance, baptism rituals take place in:

- A church
- Rivers
- Dams
- Ponds
- Swimming pools
- Lakes

ATR

The specified sacred sites for ATR include shrines:

- under a huge tree
- near ponds
- on the mountain peaks
- in graveyards

Islam

Sites include:

- hospital
- mosque
- Islamic institutions
- At any other place when sites mentioned above are too far

UNIT 9 THE VALUE OF RITUALS IN DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

THE IMPORTANCE OF RITUALS IN DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

- They establish a link between people and God
- They bring uniformity to the members of a church
- They bring harmony to the members of a particular church
- They place members under the protection of the grace of God (in Christianity)
- They represent a new life and washing away of sins
- The baby hears and listens to God being mentioned and glorified for the first time (in Islam)
- Recitation to a dying person eases the pangs of death (in Islam)
- Pleasing the spirits (in ATR)

THE DISADVANTAGES OF RITUALS

- Some rituals do not reflect the ideas about God
- Some rituals are not beneficial to the health of a person
- Some rituals are harmful acts
- Some rituals contribute to the spread of HIV

Some of the rituals that are not beneficial to the health of a person include widow inheritance (kulowa kufa) as a death ritual, hyena (fisi) as a birth ritual and initiation ceremony rituals with the purpose of removing dust (kuchotsa fumbi) and sexual or death cleansing (kuchotsa mipingu or kulowa kufa) as a death ritual.

These are harmful acts. People also compel someone to do something against his or her will in some circumstances.

UNIT 10 VIRTUES AND VICES

VIRTUES

The term ‘virtue’ implies good behaviour.

The good behaviour is influenced by laws.

Some of these are natural or moral laws.

This indicates that a person is born with the capacity to distinguish between right and wrong.

In other words, every person has a conscience, which indicates that it is wrong to do certain things such as killing a person or stealing.

Any good action is called a virtue.

Examples of virtues are justice, wisdom, temperance and courage.

These are known as cardinal virtues.

MEANINGS OF VIRTUES

(a) Justice

Justice is the virtue of being honest, fair or impartial; giving a person's due, right, privilege, respect, what one deserves lawfully and legally.

Love and respect are the basis for justice.

(b) Fortitude or courage

Courage, strength and endurance are great undertakings.

Most of undertakings though good, are met with criticisms, discouragements and frustrations.

We need courage and strength in order to overcome these hindrances.

(c) Temperance

Temperance involves willingness to control bodily desires and pleasures or one's bad behaviour.

A good learner who has money from his or her parents will not overspend it. He or she will put it to good use.

In other words, he or she is said to be careful.

(d) Wisdom or prudence

A prudent person has a foresight in his or her action.

For example, a prudent child will consider the problems related to sex before marriage or early marriages.

VICES

The opposite of virtue is vice.

This includes injustice, which involves acts such as being unfair, partial, wanting more of everything, forgetting a neighbour and his or her needs.

Examples of social problems which are caused by these vices are:

* the gap between the rich and the poor
* the disappearance of some medicines from government hospitals
* lack of books in some schools
* gender-based violence

UNIT 11 RELIGIOUS VIEWS ON VIRTUES AND VICES

RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON VIRTUES

Christianity

In Christianity, Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments in Mark 12:30, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength'. The second most important commandment is, 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself'.

Islam

In Islam, the Quran and the Sunnah are the main sources of the law (Sharia) to guide a person in private and public life. For instance, the Hadith indicates that every act of goodness is charity. An individual should not consider a minor act of goodness to be insignificant. The dearest to Allah are those who have the best moral character.

ATR

In the case of African Tradition Religions, rites of passage, myths, stories and proverbs are vehicles for moral instructions. For example, proverbs like: 'Mwana wa mnzako ndi wako yemwe; Mnzako akapsa ndevu m'zimire, and so forth'.

In all the above religions, people are encouraged to love and care for their neighbour, whether they are rich or poor, healthy or sick.

Everyone is worthy of the love and care of their God and of all the people around them.

COMMON VICES ACCORDING TO RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES

The following are common examples of vices:

- hatred
- disrespect
- arrogance
- selfishness
- disobedience
- irresponsibility
- injustice
- stealing
- murder
- violence against the weak

All religions recognize that a good person must have the four virtues involving justice, wisdom (prudence), temperance, courage (fortitude) and piety.

UNIT 12 WAYS OF PROMOTING VIRTUES

There are many ways through which virtues are promoted in society.

Some of them are:

- practising the virtues whenever an opportunity allows
- associating with people who are of good behaviour

- copying the behaviour of leaders and elders who are well behaved or role models
- obeying school rules, state laws, parents, teachers and those In authority

RELIGIOUS WAYS OF PROMOTING VIRTUES AT SCHOOL AND AT HOME

- Rites of passage
- Rituals
- Use of proverbs
- Use of stories
- Use of prayers

Rites of passage

An example of rites of passage is the birth of a child. To show that Malawians have a great desire for abundant life, they start to protect human life even before the person is born.

The mother and father practise many taboos before and after the birth of their new baby.

Rituals

Some examples of rituals are baptism in Christianity and washing of the body (a funeral rite in ATR).

Rituals renew and strengthen our linkage with God.

They also help preserve what is valuable and discard what is not acceptable in society.

Use of proverbs

Proverbs are pedagogical tools for wisdom.

Their messages help to preserve social order.

Use of stories

Parents sometimes use religious stories to communicate messages to their children.

Through stories, children can be helped or led into religious awareness and responses.

Through stories, children acquire moral values such as love, courage and honesty.

Usually the stories begin with real or imagined experiences which the children may identify with.

Sometimes the children are encouraged not only to narrate imaginary stories but also their own life stories.

This reflection promotes good character.

Use of prayers

Members of ATR approach God during childbirth, wedding, sickness, death, planting and harvest.

In Islam, regular prayers are part of Ibada and a means of refraining one from obscenity and evil (Quran 29:45). In Christianity, members are encouraged to pray in order to refrain themselves from temptations (Luke 22:40).

UNIT 13 CONTRIBUTIONS OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENT

CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM AND ATR TO THE CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Concern for the environment has become a major issue in recent years and most people are aware that something is seriously wrong on our environment.

Even religions are aware of the great damage which is done to the environment.

In order to address this problem, different religions have made various contributions towards environmental conservation.

Some of their contributions in sensitizing people on the need to conserve the environment are as follows:

- The Methodist Conference statement (1991) states, 'Men and women are to be stewards and curators, not exploiters of the earth's resources. Christians must support those working for conservation and the development of more appropriate, suitable lifestyles'.
- The Roman Catholic statement (1991) states, 'The earth and all life on it is a gift from God given to us to share and develop not to dominate and exploit'.
- The Muslim Declaration on nature states, 'His trustees are responsible for maintaining the unity of his creation, the integrity of the earth, its flora and fauna, its wildlife and nature environment'.

- The Christian Ecology Link also sensitizes people on the need to preserve the earth's resources. It stimulates interest by running conferences and producing newsletters and publications. It also equips members with skills on how they can sustain the environment.
- Christian Aid, CAFOD, Tear Fund and Zamzam also assist in sustaining the environment.
- ATR forbids its member from tampering with places which are believed to be inhabited by spirits such as graveyards and forests. It also forbids its members from setting bush fires.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION PROJECT

An environmental conservation project is any activity that learners or other people get engaged in with the purpose of sustaining and maintaining the environment.

There are several activities that may come under this project, some of them are:

- Construction of fire breaks around the woodlots
- Planting or replanting trees
- Sensitizing people on the dangers of environmental degradation

Learners may be involved in one of these when conserving the environment at school and at home.

This assists them have hands on experience.

UNIT 14 RELIGIOUS FOUNDERS

FOUNDERS OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

There are many religions in Malawi. These religions were founded by various people.

Jesus Christ is the founder of Christianity.

M'bona and Makewana are leaders and founders of traditional religions in their societies.

Muhammad is the founder of Islam.

STORIES ABOUT RELIGIOUS FOUNDERS

Christianity

The founder of Christianity is Jesus Christ.

He was born miraculously in Bethlehem.

He was crucified and died on the cross.

After three days, he resurrected from the dead and ascended to heaven.

He is believed to be the Son of God.

Jesus Christ taught people to love one another, pray and live in peace.

He healed many people suffering from different types of diseases and raised the dead. (Matthew 20:28-34)

Islam

In Islam, Muhammad was only a prophet.

In the Quran, God has addressed him as a prophet or messenger (Quran 36:3, Quran 33:38).

He was born in Mecca in 570 AD.

His father was Abdallah while his mother was Amina.

He received his prophethood at the age of 40.

His prophethood lasted 23 years.

He died at the age of 63.

One of his main teachings include the worship of one God.

ATR

M'bona is one of the founders of African Traditional Religion (ATR).

He is believed to be the founder of the M'bona cult in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts.

He was a nephew of Chief Lundu the great. He was a rainmaker of great fame.

When M’bona danced, rain would certainly come.

When people are in trouble, they pray God through M’bona.

They offer sacrifices to M’bona’s spirit.

UNIT 15 RELIGIOUS LEADERS

LEADERS OF VARIOUS RELIGIONS

There are leaders at different levels in any religion.

Some of these religious leaders are:

- Pastors
- Reverends
- Priests
- Sheikhs
- Bishops
- Popes
- Cardinals
- Anankungwi
- Rainmakers
- Witchdoctors
- Diviners
- Seers
- Traditional leaders
- Spirit mediums
- Church elders,
- Deacons
- Rituals elders

THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS

In any religion, there are leaders at different level. These religious leaders have different duties and responsibilities. Some of these are:

- They propagate God's message in holy scriptures left behind by their religious founders or prophets
- They preside over various religious functions, for example, wedding ceremonies.
- They translate and interpret the holy scriptures
- They receive God's messages through dreams and visions
- They bring peace among people
- They criticize evils in society

UNIT 16 STORIES ON VIRTUES FROM DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

STORIES ABOUT VIRTUES FROM DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

There are many stories on virtues

Christianity

In Christianity, the Ten Commandments contain all virtues which a person must practice.

Also, Jesus summarised the commandment in Mark 12:30, 'Love the Lord your God with all your mind and with all your strength'.

He went further by stating, 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself'.

Jesus also summed up some moral teachings in the beatitudes on the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12)

Islam

In Islam, the Quran and Sunnah are the main sources of the law (Sharia) to guide a person in good conduct and behaviour in private and public life. (Quran 6:151-152; Quran 17:23-24).

ATR

In African Tradition Religions, stories are vehicles for moral instructions.

Almost all moral teachings in ATR are transferred to the youths through stories.

PERSONAL LIFE STORIES

Every person has a story to tell.

It is from such stories that one may learn the virtues of that particular person.

In addition, the reflection of the past is made which in turn produces conviction.

It is this conviction which forms personal character.

UNIT 17 THE VALUE OF VIRTUES

THE VALUE OF VIRTUES

Virtues affect personal relationships.

These virtues are grouped into four:

1. Justice
2. Wisdom
3. Temperance
4. Courage

From a religious perspective, another virtue can be added, that is, piety.

These virtues should be practised by the children as follows:

Wisdom

A wise or prudent learner will consider the implications of premarital sex or avoid wrong type of friends.

In other words, learners who have this virtue should reason from cause to effect.

Justice

The learners practise this virtue by safeguarding their right to education, by respecting the rights of others, by respecting authorities and by saying the truth all the time even if it costs them dearly.

Temperance

The learners practise this virtue by controlling the desires of bodily pleasures, greed, excessive drinking and extravagant spending.

For example, a learner who is temperate though he or she may have a lot of money will always put it to good use.

Courage

The learners should understand that most of our undertakings though good are met with criticism, risks, discouragement, accusations and frustrations.

They need courage and strength to overcome these hindrances.

For example, a learner who possesses the virtue of fortitude will do his or her homework and other school home assignment and duties even when they are difficult or unpleasant.

Fortitude helps to fight off laziness and the inclination to give up.

Piety

This is a sense of gratitude to God or Allah.

A conviction that prayer helps in our actions.

Learners who pray and put their lives in the hands of God allow God to control them.

They get strength of doing well from the grace of God.

GLOSSARY

Ablution – religious ceremony of washing of the body, hands and so forth

Action plan – outline of activities to be carried out

Adhan – a Muslim call for prayer

Angel – a spirit who is believed to be a messenger or servant of God

Aqeeqah – a cerebration for the birth of a baby

Article of faith – a belief in God, his books, his angels, his messengers, the Day of Judgment and predestination (supremacy of the Divine will)

Baptism – a Christian religious ceremony done to welcome someone who joins a religion

Complying – following or doing

Conscience – the silent voice inside our hearts which tells us that the actions are not good

Creator – an attribute to God

Document – a piece of paper, form, book, and so forth, that gives information about something

Dominion – power over something or somebody

Elder – a person of greater experience and authority

Environmental conservation project – any activity that people get engaged in with the purpose of sustaining and maintaining the environment

Hadith – sayings of the prophet Muhammad

Hyena (fisi) – a cultural practice that takes place when a married couple fails to have a baby. The couple seeks the help of another man to have sexual intercourse with the woman in order to have a baby. In some areas, when a girl reaches puberty, she is initiated and then her family arranges for a man to have sexual relations with her. This man is also called fisi.

Ibada – worship

Immorality – not following accepted standards of good behaviour

Institution – organisation

Intoxicant – a substance such as alcohol that produces lack of control

Iqaamah – a Muslim call for the beginning of prayers

Monotheism – the belief that there is only one God

Mufti – a rank higher than a sheikh

Natural law – rules of behaviour considered to be basic to human nature

Peak – a sharply pointed top of a mountain

Perspective- point of view

Piety – a sense of gratitude to God or Allah

Pre-marital sex – having sexual intercourse before marriage

Removal of dust (kuchotsa fumbi) – after attending the initiation ceremonies the boys or girls are encouraged to have sex in order to remove dust that had contaminated them during the initiation ceremonies

Revelation – the messages that Muhammad received from God through angel Gabriel

Rites of passage – a ceremony held by some societies to observe a person's entry into a new stage of life, for example, birth, puberty, marriage and death

Sacred – holy

Sexual cleansing/death cleansing – a cultural practice in which a woman is expected to sleep with a man after the death and burial of her child or husband. It is locally known as 'kuchotsa mipingu' (getting rid of death 'kulowa kufa')

Shahadah – a Muslim belief that there is no object worth of worship except God and that Muhammad is his messenger

Sharia – Islamic law

Steward – caretaker

The Ten Commandments – the set of ten religious and moral laws that Yahweh inscribed on stone tablets and gave Moses (Exodus 20:1-17)

Tradition – accepted practices that are transmitted from one generation to another

Trinity – in Christianity the union of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as one God

Vice – a bad habit, or the bad part of someone's character

Virtue – a good quality in someone's character

Vision – a dream or experience especially of a religious kind

Widow inheritance (kulowa chokolo) – a marital custom in which the brother of the deceased husband or any of the deceased husband's relatives takes the widow for his wife

REFERENCES

MIE (2007), Religious Education Teachers' Guide for Standard 6. Domasi: MIE