

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2005

TITLE OF PAPER : **A STUDY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT**

COURSE CODE : **T3P1/IDE-T3P1**

TIME ALLOWED : **THREE (3) HOURS**

INSTRUCTIONS :

1. **ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
2. **ANSWER AT LEAST ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION.**
3. **WRITE IN CLEAR GRAMMATICALLY CORRECT SENTENCES.**

THIS QUESTION PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

PART ONE**QUESTION 1**

Discuss the concepts of “*high-context society*” and “*low-context society*” with regards to historical-critical text analysis. [25 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

Identify and discuss three aspects of the Jewish experience of political and cultural imperialism which had significant impact on any of the New Testament writings. [25 MARKS]

QUESTION 3

Discuss the following terminology with reference to Mark’s style and structures.

- (a) Paratactic sentence structure
- (b) Topically arranged materials
- (c) Doublets
- (d) Triad
- (e) Literary intercalation

QUESTION 4

Very often you heard some Swazi speakers supporting cultural conservatism by appealing to the Matthean Jesus’ declaration that “... I have not come to abolish the law and the prophets ... I have come to fulfill them Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:17-20)”. Is this interpretation of Jesus’ declaration true to the spirit of the text or not? Explain your position with critical arguments.

QUESTION 5

What evidence do we find in Luke-Acts suggests the author’s use of literary conventions belonging to ancient Hellenistic historiography.

QUESTION 6

With reference to relevant pericopes in the Fourth Gospel, discuss Johnson’s observation that the ‘signs’ are “... an ambiguous dimension of the Johannine narrative” (1986:483).

PART TWO**QUESTION 7**

Discuss the factors that militate against rigid classification of the New Testament Letters. In your answer refer to the entire letter collection.

QUESTION 8

“Don’t tell me what Paul says in his first Letter to the Ephesians because I am not a Corinthian”. This is a reconstructed submission of a university colleague in the BOLESWA 2000 conference on *Religion and Gender* held at the National University of Lesotho. Basing your answer on your knowledge of Paul’s occasional letters, discuss the merits of the preceding submission.

QUESTION 9

In what way is Hebrews a “Christian witness” (Johnson, 1986:417).

QUESTION 10

Identify and discuss the aspects of Revelation which conform to apocalyptic literature. What sets the book of Revelation apart as a Christian apocalypse and distinct from a Jewish apocalypse.