

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2006

TITLE OF PAPER : INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL STUDIES

COURSE CODE : T1P1/IDET1P1

DURATION : TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS : 1. Answer three questions in all.
2. Answer at least one question from each section.
3. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.

DO NOT OPEN THIS QUESTION PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR GRANTS
YOU PERMISSION TO DO SO.

T1P1/IDE T1P1 (M)

SECTION ONE

1. In what ways does social scientific reading of biblical texts complement the historical critical method? [20]
2. Identify social values and practices reflected in the Hebrew Scriptures which may be a consequence of intercultural exchange between ancient Israel and its neighbours. [20]
3. Demonstrate how history and religion were mutually influential during the Mosaic period of early Yahwism. [20]
4. Identify and briefly describe with examples the various literary forms found within Jewish canonical literature. [20]
5. Discuss the narrative characteristics of Pentateuchal material which led to the formulation of the four documents theory. [20]
6. What is the *apocrypha*? What do you think were the reasons for which the Alexandrian Jewish religious community included this extra set of literature into their canon? [20]

SECTION TWO

7. How was the faith of the early Christian converts nurtured prior to the collection of distinctly Christian sacred books? [20]
8. In what ways did the apostles contribute to the development of Christianity as suggested in the Acts narrative? [20]
9. Explain the canonical position of the letter collection in the New Testament *vis-a-vis* the gospels with respect to chronological order of composition of each category of documents. [20]
10. How would you explain the relationship between the Old and New Testaments from a scholarly perspective? [20]