

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
BA HUMANITIES I/ IDE BA HUMANITIES I/ B. Ed I  
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2009

TITLE OF PAPER : INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL STUDIES

COURSE CODE : T1P1/IDE T1P1

DURATION : TWO HOURS

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

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

**T1P1/IDET1P1 Exam (M) 2009**  
**SECTION ONE (Question 1 is compulsory)**

1. In your opinion, are scholarly and devotional methods of reading the Bible mutually exclusive or complimentary to each other? [20]
2. Illustrate with fitting examples how the Bible has had a shaping influence on the siSwati language and idiom. [20]
3. Briefly explain the following concepts.
  - a) Lower criticism
  - b) Higher criticism
  - c) Reader-response criticism
  - d) Social scientific criticism
  - e) Postcolonial reading.[20]
4. What do you think is the significance of the fact that there is more than one canonical list of Jewish scriptures? [20]
5. Is the question of the authorship of the Pentateuch/Torah of Moses worth continued debate? Do you think such there is a final answer to this question? [20]
6. What can we learn about the self-understanding of Jewish prophets from the various messages and actions as recorded in Old Testament prophetic texts? [20]
7. Explain the characteristics of Jewish wisdom. [20]

**SECTION TWO**

8. In what ways does knowledge of intertestamental history and literature shed light on the New Testament? [20]
9. If the Gospels all tell the story of the life and work of one person-Jesus, why are there four Gospels rather than one? [20]
10. What can we learn from the book of Acts about apostolic Christian living and worship? [20]
11. Explain each of the structural elements of the New Testament Letters.

[20]

**12. What is the benefit of knowing about the history of the English translation of the Bible? [20]**