

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES
BA HUMANITIES II/ IDE BA HUMANITIES II/ B. Ed II
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER, JULY 2009

TITLE OF PAPER : A STUDY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

COURSE CODE : T2P1/IDE T2P1

DURATION : THREE HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS : 1. Answer **FOUR** questions in all.
2. Write in clear and grammatically correct sentences.

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

T2P1/IDE T2P1 Exam (S) 2009

1. Analyse how Genesis 1-11 functions as a prologue to the Torah of Moses. Your analysis must include comments on how the original stories may have had a somewhat different function outside the context of the Torah. [25]
2. With close reference to specific narratives in Genesis 12-50, explain the key features of the religion of the patriarchs. Your answer should include comments on how patriarchal religion relates to later aspects of Jewish religion such as Mosaic, First Temple and Second Temple. [25]
3. Discuss the call of Moses and his role in ancient Israelite history as we have studied it in this course. [25]
4. Analyse either Joshua or Judges, showing how source material and editorial framework do not fully correspond. [25]
5. Describe and comment on David's rise to power and consolidation of it. [25]
6. Apply Mark Biddle's (1996) methodological theory of polyphony and symphony on an analysis of any one of the prophetic books of the Old Testament. [25]
7. With specific reference to specific contents of the Chronicler's history, demonstrate how the Chronicler used his source materials. [25]
8. "There is nothing particularly religious in the Song of Songs. One must hasten to add that neither is there anything irreligious or antireligious, except to those prurient minds who identify sensual love with impiety. But in the same way that the secular wisdom of Proverbs became identified with the Torah, so the presence of Song of Songs in Scripture caused the love poetry to be invested with a deeper significance" (Samuel Sandmel, 1978: 310). Discuss this observation, identifying the issue of debate underlying Sandmel's submission. [25]
9. With close reference to specific aspects of Ecclesiastes, demonstrate how its author explores the painful realities of life without succumbing to despair. [25]

10. Explain Adele Berlin's (1996) argument on the thematic connections between the book of Ruth and the Torah.

[25]

11. Describe the historical setting of the book of Daniel demonstrating how such a context gave rise to apocalyptic thought.

[25]

12. What is patriarchy? Explain how it manifests itself in any canonical text that we have studied in this course.

[25]