

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES
2010/2011 FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION PAPER

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL STUDIES
COURSE CODE: TRS 100 [T1P1]/ IDE TRS 100 [T1P1]
DURATION: TWO HOURS

ALL QUESTIONS ARE WORTH 20 MARKS

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Answer three (3) questions in all.
- b. *Question 1 is compulsory*
- c. Answer at least one question from each section.
- d. Write in clear and grammatically correct sentences.

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

TRS 100 [T1P1] Main Exam December 2010

SECTION ONE

Question 1 [*Compulsory question*]

“The Bible is both a sacred text and a collection of literature”. Discuss this statement using relevant illustrations.

Question 2

Explain how the historical-critical method differs from reader-response criticism.

Question 3

Analyse the supposed criteria used by the Rabbinic council in Palestine to select books into a canon of Jewish scriptures.

Question 4

Identify and describe five themes and sub-themes addressed in the Pentateuch.

Question 5

Discuss, with relevant illustrations, the merits and demerits of the Documentary Hypothesis in explaining certain characteristics of the Pentateuch.

Question 6

“Prophets did not give timeless messages”. Discuss with appropriate examples.

Question 9

Identify and explain the main features of wisdom literature.

SECTION TWO

Question 8

Give brief a description of the narrative and religious focus of each gospel text in the Christian canon.

Question 9

Explain the reasons behind the value given to the letters of Paul by the early Church

Question 10

In what ways does the book of Revelation as an apocalypse offer encouragement to the persecuted early church?