

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
&
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

TRS 201 SUPPLEMENTARY EXAM, JULY 2013

TITLE OF PAPER : Studies in the Old Testament II
COURSE CODE : TRS 201
DURATION : 3 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. Choose and answer **four (4)** questions in all.
2. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.

All questions are worth 25 marks.

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PERMISSION TO DO SO**

TRS 201 (S) Studies in the Old Testament II, July 2013

Question 1

Discuss with relevant illustrations drawn from classic prophetic literature Jewish understanding and practice of prophecy highlighting in your discussion both the distinctive dimensions and those that were shared with other neighbouring cultural groups in of the rest of the Ancient Near Eastern region. [25]

Question 2

Identify and explain internal evidence from any of the prophetic books we have studied in the course which indicates the phenomenon of residual orality. [25]

Question 3

Identify the following text by the technical term coined in biblical scholarship and further explain ideas communicated through this term. [25]

Isaiah 1

¹⁰ *Hear the word of the LORD,
you rulers of Sodom!*

*Listen to the teaching of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!*

¹¹ *What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?
says the LORD;*

*I have had enough of burnt-offerings of rams
and the fat of fed beasts;*

*I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
or of lambs, or of goats.*

¹² *When you come to appear before me,*
who asked this from your hand?*

Trample my courts no more;

¹³ *bringing offerings is futile;
incense is an abomination to me.*

New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation—

I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.

¹⁴ *Your new moons and your appointed festivals
my soul hates;*

they have become a burden to me,

I am weary of bearing them.

¹⁵ *When you stretch out your hands,*

I will hide my eyes from you;

even though you make many prayers,

I will not listen;

your hands are full of blood.

Question 4

Explain why psychoanalytic criticism has interpreted Ezekiel's prophetic activities as neurosis. [25]

Question 5

Analyse how the book of Lamentations brings together the antagonistic elements of Jewish wisdom in moaning the destruction of the Solomonic Temple. [25]

Question 6

Comment on the observation that the book of *Song of Songs* was written for performance. [25]

Question 7

Show how the Psalms debunk religious idealism without giving up Jewish faith in its entirety. [25]

Question 8

Discuss with appropriate illustrations how the optimistic wisdom strand represented in the book of Proverbs contains its own complexity of thought. [25]

Question 9

Explain Jonah's behaviour as depicted in the book Jonah. Describe hypothetical circumstances under which you would also behave like Jonah. [25]

Question 10

Drawing supporting evidence from the book of Daniel, comment on the view that Jewish apocalyptic interpretation of history became necessary for the continuing relevance and survival of Jewish religion. [25]