2014/2015 MAIN EXAMINATION, DECEMBER 2014

COURSE TITLE

: STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT I

COURSE CODE

: TRS 200

DURATION

: TWO (2) HRS

INSTRUCTIONS

a. Choose and answer three (3) questions.

b. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.

All questions are worth 20 marks.

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

Question 2

Explain the land ownership system and land-use practices that prevailed in ancient Israel from the pre-monarchic to the early monarchical periods. [20]

Question 3

Why is the myth an appropriate literary form for articulating the subject matter of Genesis 1 - 11 (primeval traditions)? [20]

Question 4

Apply sociological criticism in analysing the story about Lot's experience of hosting two male strangers in his house as narrated in Genesis 19:1 -10. [20]

Genesis 19:1-10

1 The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and bowed down with his face to the ground. 2 He said, "Please, my lords, turn aside to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you can rise early and go on your way." They said, "No; we will spend the night in the square." 3 But he urged them strongly; so they turned aside to him and entered his house; and he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. 4 But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house; 5 and they called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, so that we may know them." 6 Lot went out of the door to the men, shut the door after him, 7 and said, "I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly. 8 Look, I have two daughters who have not known a man; let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please; only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof." 9 But they replied, "Stand back!" And they said, "This fellow came here as an alien, and he would play the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them." Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near the door to break it down, 10 But the men inside reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. 11 And they struck with blindness the men who were at the door of the house, both small and great, so that they were unable to find the door.

Question 5

Based on your knowledge of the two basic types of Jewish law (Absolute\Apodictic law and Case/Conditional law), explain the relationship between the two categories of law using appropriate examples that you can draw from the books of Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

[20]

Provide supporting arguments for the view that unlike the Chronicles, Ezra-Nehemiah is not a reworking of earlier documentary sources. [20] Question 8 What can be learned about ancient Israelite historiography from the various ways the Chronicler handles materials from earlier sources? [20] 3 | Page