

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, JULY 2015**

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.

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

TRS 200 (S) Studies in the Old Testament I, July 2015

Question 1

Discuss the merits and demerits of the debate surrounding the use of the term “Old Testament”. [20]

Question 2

What conclusions can be drawn from the proposal offered by Flanders *et al* (1972/1996) on the development of Old Testament literature? [20]

Question 3

Explain what David Clines (1978) means by “Atomism” and “Geneticism” in classifying the trends that had for a long time until the 1960s characterised studies of the Pentateuch. In your answer include a defence of these twin trends.

[20]

Question 4

Conduct a comparative analysis of the two Abrahamic covenant texts below. [20]

Genesis 15

1After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.’²But Abram said, ‘O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’³And Abram said, ‘You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.’⁴But the word of the Lord came to him, ‘This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.’⁵He brought him outside and said, ‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’⁶And he believed the Lord; and the Lord^{*} reckoned it to him as righteousness.

7 Then he said to him, ‘I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.’⁸But he said, ‘O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?’⁹He said to him, ‘Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.’¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.¹³Then the Lord^{*} said to Abram, ‘Know this for certain, that your offspring shall be aliens in a land that is not theirs, and shall be slaves there, and they shall be oppressed for four hundred years;¹⁴but I will bring judgement on the nation that they serve, and afterwards they shall come out with great possessions.¹⁵As

for yourself, you shall go to your ancestors in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶And they shall come back here in the fourth generation; for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.'

17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, ¹⁹the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.'

Genesis 17

1When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty;* walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram,* but your name shall be Abraham;* for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring* after you. ⁸And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God.'

9 God said to Abraham, 'As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹You shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹²Throughout your generations every male among you shall be circumcised when he is eight days old, including the slave born in your house and the one bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring. ¹³Both the slave born in your house and the one bought with your money must be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.'

15 God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.' ¹⁷Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, 'Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?' ¹⁸And Abraham said to God, 'O that Ishmael might live in your sight!' ¹⁹God said, 'No, but your

wife Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac.* I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. ²⁰As for Ishmael, I have heard you; I will bless him and make him fruitful and exceedingly numerous; he shall be the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. ²¹But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this season next year.' ²²And when he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.

²³ Then Abraham took his son Ishmael and all the slaves born in his house or bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very day, as God had said to him. ²⁴Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. ²⁵And his son Ishmael was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. ²⁶That very day Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised; ²⁷and all the men of his house, slaves born in the house and those bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

Question 5

Demonstrate through discussion how the identifiable theological themes addressed in the book of Deuteronomy are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. [20]

Question 6

With reference to relevant internal evidence in the books of Samuel and Kings, discuss the causes of the 922 BCE split of the ancient Israelite monarchy into Northern Israel and Judah. [20]

Question 7

With reference to relevant contents of Ezra-Nehemiah analyse the nature and causes of the conflicts between the returned Jews and those who never left the land. [20]

Question 8

Discuss the function of the genealogical lists found in the books of Chronicles. [20]