

**TITLE OF PAPER : Gospel Tradition II**  
**COURSE CODE : TRS 403**  
**DURATION : 2 Hours**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Choose and answer three (3) questions in all.
2. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.
3. The paper consists of three (3) printed pages including the cover page.
4. All questions carry equal marks.

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

## **Question 2**

“The stories about Jesus in the early church may have been similar. To be sure, many of them are accounts of things that really did happen (part of our task will be figuring out which ones did). Others are historical reminiscences that have been changed, sometimes a little, sometimes a lot, in the retelling. Others were made up by Christians, at some point prior to the writing of the gospels” (Ehrman 2008: 62). In view of this assertion, why was it legitimate and imperative for early Christian communities to change certain historical facts in the life of Jesus? [20]

## **Question 3**

Did Jesus have children? Assess the “truth” of claims forwarded to justify neither position? In your answer, make reference to claims in any other early Christianity gospel(s). [20]

## **Question 4**

From the extract provided below, do you think Passion predictions are authentic to Jesus? What do you find intriguing about Peter / Jesus’ understanding of the fate awaiting the Son of Man? [20]

“<sup>31</sup>He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup>But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” (Mark 8:31-38)

From the extract of John's Gospel provided below, identify and explain apologetic interest exhibited by the author. [20]

### The Burial of Jesus

<sup>38</sup>Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. <sup>39</sup>He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.<sup>40</sup> <sup>40</sup>Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. <sup>41</sup>At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. <sup>42</sup>Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. (John 19: 38-42)