

University of Swaziland
Faculty of Humanities
Department of Theology & Religious Studies
2015/2016 Main Examination Paper, May

Course code : TRS 112
Course Title : A History of Biblical Interpretation
Duration : 2 hrs.

Instructions

- a. Choose and answer three (3) questions.
- b. Write in clear and grammatically correct sentences.
- c. Make sure you accurately label the questions you have opted to answer.
- d. Indicate on the cover page of your answer script the name of your programme of study.

*NB: All questions are worth 20 marks

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

TRS 112: A History of Biblical Interpretation (M) May 2016**Question 1**

Identify and discuss pertinent factors that make interpretation of a biblical text necessary for any reader.

Question 2

Midrashic interpretation within Pharisaism is not a method that follows a clear system of rules of interpretation. Elaborate on this observation.

Question 3

Explain how typological interpretation was well suited to the central beliefs of the Qumran Jewish community.

Question 4

Define the following concepts that are integral to monastic exegesis:

- *Lectio divina*
- *Sacra pagina*
- *compunctum*

Question 5

Explain the reason for the dissatisfaction of the Dominicans on the methods applied by the teachers of the Bible in the medieval university (scholastics).

Question 6

Comment on the interpretative principle of “scripture interprets itself” as championed by the reformers.

Question 7

Discuss the Kreeft’s defence of the Roman Catholic Church’s recognition of Scripture and Tradition.

Question 8

Either

Define the various interpretation procedures that are components of the historical-critical method.

Or

What is your opinion regarding the view that it not possible to interpret a biblical text from a position of neutrality? Support your stand.