

45

University of Swaziland  
Faculty of Humanities &  
Institute of Distance Education  
Department of Theology & Religious Studies

**2015/2016 Main Examination Paper Second Semester, May**

Course Code : TRS 201  
Course Title : Studies in the Old Testament II  
Duration : 2 hrs

**Instructions**

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

\*NB: All questions are worth 20 marks.

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

**TRS 201: Studies in the Old Testament II (M), May 2016****Question 1**

Elaborate on the enduring consensus view in Old Testament scholarship that prophecy was a widespread socio-cultural phenomenon in the Ancient Near East.

**Question 2**

Explain the distinction between the conceptions of prophetic prediction maintained in Jewish community on one hand and in the other Ancient Near Eastern nations on the other.

**Question 3**

Discuss the basis for Amos' disregard for the political boundary between Northern Israel and Judah when he served as a prophet.

**Question 4**

Give a critical perspective to Isaiah of Jerusalem's prophetic advice to King Ahaz that the king must not agree to enter into a political alliance with Syria and Northern Israel against Assyria and to instead put trust in Yahweh's protection (Isaiah 7:1-9).

**Question 5**

What do you think Jeremiah's treatment as an outcast by the priestly class of which he was a member illustrates about how religion sometimes functions in society?

**Question 6**

Write a critique on Prophet Haggai's message on inspiring the returned Jewish exiles to contribute to the reconstruction of the Jerusalem Temple.

**Question 7**

Discuss Rabbi Akiba's warning against the reading of *Song of Songs* by those he refers to as "immature in faith".

**Question 8**

With reference to relevant internal evidence from the book of *Job*, demonstrate the characteristics of Jewish Wisdom.

**Question 9**

Analyse the use of irony and humour by the author of the book of *Jonah* towards communicating deep theological insights.

Question 10

Discuss the challenging issues that any interpreter of the book of Daniel faces.

---