

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
&
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

TRS 402 SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, JULY 2016

**TITLE OF PAPER : Gospel Tradition I
COURSE CODE : TRS 402
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.

TRS 402 Gospel Tradition I, (S) July 2016**Question 1**

From the passage given below, discuss the nature and intentions of accusations that were leveled against Jesus. [20]

Jesus and Beelzebul (Matthew 12: 22 – 32)

²² Then a blind and dumb demoniac was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the dumb man spoke and saw. ²³ And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?" ²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard it they said, "It is only by Be-el'zebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons." ²⁵ Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand; ²⁶ and if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷ And if I cast out demons by Be-el'zebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. ²⁸ But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. ³⁰ He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters. ³¹ Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² And whoever says a word against the Son of man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Question 2

In what ways do the birth stories of Jesus suggest more of a reliance on "Old" Testament parallels than eyewitness accounts? [20]

Question 3

Do you think it is possible to dispense with source Quelle in explaining the relationship between Matthew and Luke? [20]

Question 4

Attempt a critical reconstruction of the most probable dates concerning the birth, public ministry and death of Jesus Christ. [20]

Question 5

Attempt a detailed analysis of the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector provided below. [20]

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others: ¹⁰“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Question 6

To what extent do you agree with the views of Albert Schweitzer and Rudolf Bultmann on the quest of the historical Jesus?