

University of Swaziland
Faculty of Humanities
Department of Theology & Religious Studies

2016/2017 Main Examination Paper, December 2016

Course code : TRS 212
Course title : Post-biblical Judaism
Duration : Two (2) Hours

Instructions

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

NB.: All questions are worth 20 marks.

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

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Question 1

Write a critique on the use of matrilineal descent as the basis for Jewish identity in Orthodox Judaism.

Question 2

Discuss the conditions set by Orthodox Judaism for the conversion of non-Jews to Judaism.

Question 3

Define the role of the *Tannaim* and *Amoraim* in preserving Jewish religion and life in Palestine and the Jewish Diaspora during the Talmudic period.

Question 4

Select any two of the rabbis of the Talmudic period and discuss their significant contributions to the development of post-biblical Judaism.

Question 5

Explain the ways in which the role and status of a rabbi in post-biblical Judaism are distinguishable from the role and status of other religious officials who served during the biblical period.

Question 6

Discuss the three sources of *halakhah* as an instrument of regulating Jewish devotion in post-biblical Judaism.

Question 7

Analyse the four basic principles on which midrashic interpretation of the biblical texts of the Written Torah is based.

Question 8

Discuss the Jewish view and practice of prayer using appropriate illustrations for a comprehensive discussion.
