

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION**

MAIN EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2017

TITLE OF PAPER : Introduction to Biblical Studies
COURSE CODE : TRS 100
DURATION : 2 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS:

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

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

TRS 100 Introduction to Biblical Studies, (M) November 2017

SECTION A

Question 1

Is it right to claim that the Pentateuch was written from multiple strands of tradition? Give strong reasons for your answer. [20]

Question 2

Give a concise overview of the “Old” Testament, discussing its major divisions and key developments in Israelite history. [20]

Question 3

Describe some of the distinctive features of prophetic call narratives. Support your answer with examples from books you have studied in this course. [20]

Question 4

In your view, was Isaiah’s stance of neutrality the best political decision to take and why do you think so? [20]

SECTION B

Question 5

Identify and discuss the specific details that indicate the literary inferiority of Mark compared to the Gospel of Matthew and Luke. [20]

Question 6

Do you think it is proper for Christians to marry non-Christians? Give good reasons to support your position. [20]

Question 7

How could one explain why the First Letter of Peter is attributed to the apostle and yet it is heavily imbued with Pauline ideas? [20]

Question 8

Write a critical commentary on the following extract from Revelation 1:1-8. [20]

1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants what must soon take place; and he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ² who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. ³ Blessed is he who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written therein; for the time is near.

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, every one who pierced him; and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. (RSV).