

University of Eswatini  
Faculty of Humanities  
Department of Theology and Religious Studies  
In collaboration with the  
Institute of Distance Education (IDE)

**2018/2019 MAIN EXAMINATION (Second Semester) MAY 2019**

**TITLE OF PAPER** : Studies in the Old Testament II  
**COURSE CODE** : TRS 201  
**DURATION** : 2 (Two) Hours

Instructions

- a. Answer three (3) questions in all.
- b. Your answer to each question should be structured and consistently focused on the issue(s) about which you are writing.
- c. Write the name of your programme of study on the front cover of your answer script.

\*Each question carries 20 marks.

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## TRS 201: Studies in the Old Testament II May 2019

### Question 1

Analyse the following passage from a historical-critical perspective to point out what it reveals about Jewish prophecy as it was understood and practiced during biblical times.

12 And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there;

13 but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

14 Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees,

15 and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel." (*Amos 7:12-15*)

### Questions 2

Discuss the tragic quality of the book of *Lamentations*.

### Question 3

Explain the theological views that underlie the imprecatory *Psalms*.

### Question 4

**Either**

Discuss the categories of Wisdom genre that are represented in Old Testament Wisdom Literature.

**Or**

Comment on the following quote with regard to what it implies about the interpretation history of the book of *Song of Songs*:

*The Song of Songs has been a problem for Christians over the years. Not because its meaning is obscure, but rather because it is all too clear! (Bradshaw, 1995:5)*

### Question 5

Explain the social attitudes and religious practices of biblical Jews that underpin the texts of *Ruth*, *Esther* and *Jonah*.

### Question 6

Discuss the observation that "apocalypse is a hybrid genre" (Collins, 2011:3) with reference to the book of *Daniel*.