

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

2020/2021 Examination Paper (First Semester) April 2021

Course Code : TRS 407
Title of Paper : Faith and Wisdom in the Jewish Canon
Duration : 2 (Two) Hours

Instructions:

- a. Answer three (3) questions.
- b. Your answer to each question must be structured and consistently focused on the subject matter at hand.
- c. Indicate on the front cover page of your answer script the name of your programme of study and whether you are studying full time or through the Institute of Distance Education.

NB: All questions carry equal marks.

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

TRS 407: Faith and Wisdom in the Jewish canon (M) February 2021

Question 1

Point out what makes King Solomon one of the wisest persons that ever lived in Jewish history.

Question 2

From a reading of any Wisdom book studied in this course, explain the values of the ancient Israelite society.

Question 3

Discuss the possible reasons why wisdom is identified as female in Proverbs.

Question 4

Make a critical analysis of the response of the friends of Job to his brutal sufferings.

Question 5

Give the possible reasons why in ancient Israelite communities, wisdom was not regarded as mere common sense.

Question 6

Write a critical commentary of this extract taken from Ecclesiastes 2: 1 - 11.

2 I said to myself, "Come now, I will make a test of pleasure; enjoy yourself." But behold, this also was vanity. ²I said of laughter, "It is mad," and of pleasure, "What use is it?" ³I searched with my mind how to cheer my body with wine—my mind still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven during the few days of their life. ⁴I made great works; I built houses and planted vineyards for myself; ⁵I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. ⁶I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. ⁷I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house; I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. ⁸I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces; I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines,^[a] man's delight.

⁹So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem; also my wisdom remained with me. ¹⁰And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them; I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. ¹¹Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had spent in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.