

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES
SECOND SEMESTER MAIN EXAMINATION MAY, 2014

COURSE CODE: TRS 201
COURSE TITLE: STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT II
DURATION: 2HRS

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Choose and answer three (3) questions in all.
- b. Write in clear and grammatically correct sentences.
- c. Your answer to each question should exceed two pages in length.

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

TRS 201 Studies in the Old Testament II (M) May, 2014

Question 1

Identify and discuss the unique characteristics of the short book of Prophet Habakkuk. [20]

Question 2

Even though Ezekiel was a prophet during the Babylonian exile, in the first 24 chapters of his text contain materials that focus on events prior to the exile. In these materials he describes the covenant violations that the community committed and how such actions led to Yahweh's departure from the Temple and withdrawal from the community at large.

Explain why Ezekiel starts by reviewing the historical events that occurred in Judah prior to the displacement of the people of covenant community to ancient Babylon before addressing their circumstances in exile and giving them a message for the future. [20]

Question 3

In what way does the text of Joel signal the coming to an end of Jewish prophecy? [20]

Question 4

Song of Songs is a text that portrays two main characters identified as Beloved and Lover. The two are literally depicted as engaged in a dialogue that centres on their expression of affection for each other. The group characters who play a side role in the text interject at a few points in the dialogue of the two characters to encourage the two main characters to consummate their love. In both Judaism and Christianity Song of Songs has been allegorically interpreted over time. The focus of the allegorical interpretation has been on taking the two characters as symbolic. In your opinion, is the allegorical interpretation of Song of Songs justifiable and convincing? [20]

Question 5

Choose at least five Psalms from the various literary categories such as *Wisdom*, *Laments*, *Imprecatory*, *Thanksgiving*, *Pilgrimage* and *Enthronement* and analyse the features which make the entire psalter a suitable source for spirituality rather than for religious instruction. [20]

Question 6

Discuss the characteristic features of Jewish Wisdom using relevant illustrations from the wisdom literature. [20]

Question 7

Demonstrate through historical analysis how the books of Ruth, Esther and Jonah are underpinned by the Jewish attitude of particularism. [20]

Question 8

Analyse the anti-imperialist sentiments embedded in the book of Daniel. [20]

