

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

MAIN EXAMINATION, MAY 2018

**TITLE OF PAPER : JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN SACRED TEXTS
COURSE CODE : TRS 102
DURATION : 2 Hours**

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. 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.

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TRS 102 Jewish and Christian sacred texts, (M) May 2018

SECTION A

Question 1

Make a case, on the basis of evidence from the Torah itself, why it is misleading or appropriate to refer to the first books of the Jewish Bible as the Pentateuch of Moses. [20]

Question 2

Explain, in detail, the myth of Atrahasis and show how the story connects with what we read in Genesis. [20]

Question 3

Do you think contradictions, inconsistencies and discrepancies in the Bible undermine its authority as the divine word of God? [20]

Question 4

Give an overview of the historical context of Amos the prophet. Use clues from the primary text to support your answer. [20]

SECTION B

Question 5

Do you think the four gospels are eyewitness accounts of the life of Jesus? Support your answer with relevant textual evidence, if any. [20]

Question 6

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1). What is the point Paul is making here and, in what ways does he affirm this position in his writings? [20]

Question 7

Give reasons why the authenticity of Colossians is generally questioned by New Testament scholars. [20]

Question 8

Write a critical commentary on the following extract taken from the Apocalypse of John. [20]

The Beast out of the Earth (Revelation 13:11-18, NIV)

¹¹ Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. ¹² It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. ¹³ And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. ¹⁴ Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. ¹⁵ The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. ¹⁶ It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name. ¹⁸ This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man.^[e] That number is 666.
