



Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
Trinity College Dublin
Ollscoil Átha Cliath | The University of Dublin

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Biblical Studies

Matriculation Examination

Wednesday 19 April

Hilary Term 2017

Examination Hall 14.00 – 17.00

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BIBLICAL STUDIES

Prof. Z. Rodgers

WRITE YOUR CAO NUMBER ON THE FRONT COVER OF EACH BOOKLET

Answer two questions from section A and two questions from section B.

A copy of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible is provided for candidates

Answer two questions from section A and two questions from section B.

Section A: The Old Testament

1. The History of Israel

1. The Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem and the deportation of Jews from the land changed forever Israel's understanding of its relationship with its God. Discuss.
2. Discuss the monarchy of Solomon. In your view, was it a success?
3. Discuss the way in which the authors of the books of Kings account for the destruction of Samaria by the Assyrians.
4. The special relationship which David and his descendants were to have with God (2 Samuel 7) makes him the most important of all of Israel's kings. Discuss.

2. Old Testament Literature

5. EITHER

Discuss the idea of social justice in the book of Amos. Make reference to passages in the book to support your argument.

Or

5. Read Amos 2:10-12 and 3:1-2. Why do you think Amos refers to God's salvation of Israel from Egypt?

6. Either

The Book of Job raises the question of why the just person suffers. In your opinion, does the book provide an adequate explanation?

OR

6. In the story of Job, Satan is testing both Job and God. Do you agree with this statement?

7. Compare the way in which the authors of the Joseph story portray the Hebrew/Israelites and the Egyptians.

SECTION B: The New Testament

1. The History of Early Christianity

8. The world within which Jesus lived was one of acute social, political and economic divisions. This in itself may account for his popularity. Discuss

9. While Jesus was critical of some Jewish institutions (for example, the Temple) and of some Jewish groups (for example, the Pharisees) he remained in many ways devoted to Judaism. Do you agree with this statement?

10. Discuss the impact on Judaism and Christianity of the fall of the Temple in AD 70.

11. Using any stories from the Gospels which you have studied, discuss how they reflect social divisions in the time of Jesus. In your answer make reference to specific texts.

2. Early Christian Literature

12. Some of the divisive social problems faced by the leaders of early Christian communities feature in 1 Corinthians. Discuss this statement providing examples from the text.

13. Discuss the function of miracles in Mark's Gospel.

14. The early Christian movement reached out beyond the Jewish world. Discuss this statement in relation to Acts.

15. Discuss Stephen's contribution to the development of the early Christian movement as this is outlined in the Acts of the Apostles.