



**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 17<sup>th</sup> April**

**GMB 14.00 – 17.00**

**Hilary Term 2019**

**BIBLICAL STUDIES**

**ANNE FITZPATRICK**

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**WRITE YOUR CAO NAME ON THE FRONT COVER.**

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

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

## **Section A**

### **The Old Testament**

Answer any two questions from 1. The History of Israel or/and any two questions from 2. Old Testament Literature

#### **1. The History of Israel**

1. The Babylonian exile of 586 led to a rethinking of Israel's relationship with its God. How was the event explained by the biblical writers?

OR

1. What happened to the communities who were deported to Babylon after 586 BCE?

2. Discuss the monarchy of either Saul or Solomon.

3. How do the deuteronomistic authors of 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings evaluate individual kings?

4. Discuss the way in which the authors of the books of Kings account for the destruction of Samaria by the Assyrians. In your answer you might comment on how this account compares to accounts of the destruction in Assyrian sources.

#### **2. Old Testament Literature**

5. EITHER

Discuss the historical background to the idea of social justice in the book of Amos. What is the main theological idea(s) behind Amos' teaching?

OR

5. To fully appreciate the ideas of the book of Amos we need to understand the historical period in which he wrote. Do you agree?

## 6. EITHER

Does the author of the Book of Job provide a solution to the problem of why the just suffer?

OR

6. Discuss the ways in which the author of Job develops the various characters of the story (including the satan) to test the idea of a Just God.

7. The authors of the Joseph story intend to demonstrate the superiority of Israel and of its God when compared to Egypt and its gods. Discuss how this is achieved.

## **SECTION B: The New Testament**

### **1. The History of Early Christianity**

8. What in your view accounts for the popularity of the Jesus movement in the Roman world?

9. Write an essay on Jesus and the marginalised.

10. Jesus was a thorough Jew who valued the Temple and the Torah as much as any other pious Jew of his time. Do you agree with this statement?

11. The Temple was the most important Jewish institution which united Jews everywhere. Discuss the impact of its destruction by Rome in 70 CE on both Judaism and Christianity.

12. Using any stories from the Gospels, discuss how they reflect the role and status of women in the time of Jesus. (You may include a discussion of the Gospel of Mary if you wish).

## **2. Early Christian Literature**

13. EITHER

1 Corinthians reveals the early Christian movement's encounter with the Roman world and its values and beliefs. Discuss this statement providing examples from the text.

OR

13. Paul writes to those whom he had left behind at Corinth warning them that they had misunderstood the core values of Jesus' message, in particular the place and function of the Eucharistic Meal. Discuss.

14. Discuss the importance and function of miracles in Mark's Gospel.

15. While Jesus' mission began in his native Galilee, the Early Christian movement quickly moved beyond the Jewish context of both Galilee and Judea. Discuss this statement in relation to Acts demonstrating how the expansion led to various problems.

16. In the Acts of the Apostles Stephen plays an important role in the early Christian movement. Describe and assess this role.