

Matriculation Examination 2012  
BIBLICAL STUDIES  
Dr. Rodgers

**A Copy of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible is provided to candidates**

**ANSWER FOUR QUESTIONS IN TOTAL**

Section A. The Old Testament

Answer two questions from **either** 1. The History of Israel **or** 2. Old Testament Literature

1. The History of Israel

1. What is the historical background to the destruction of Israel in 2 Kings 16-20.
2. Discuss the idea that Saul was a transitional figure between the pre-monarchic and the monarchic period.

OR

Discuss the achievements of Solomon and comment on how he differed from Saul and David.

3. The institutions of temple and kingship and the idea of Israel as owner of the land were deeply affected by the Babylonian capture of Jerusalem and the subsequent deportation of its leaders. Discuss.
4. Using any two Old Testament texts, discuss how the Bible and its faith based perspective challenges the historian who seeks to reconstruct historical events.

2. Old Testament Literature

5. What is the historical background of the book of Amos and how do you think this background has influenced the prophet's idea of social ethics?
6. The story of Job presents the reader with questions about the human condition which are still relevant today. Do you think that the author presents a coherent and satisfactory answer to any of these questions?

7. Briefly outline the Joseph story and discuss why you think it may have been preserved as one of the central traditions about Jewish identity. In your answer you may choose to emphasize the contrasting gifts of the Jewish Joseph with those of Pharaoh's wisemen.
8. The book of Amos provides us with some insight into the prophet's self-understanding. How does Amos indicate that he had not chosen the role of prophet but had been called to it? How might such claims have impacted on his audience?

### Section B. New Testament

Answer two questions from **either** 1. The History of Early Christianity **or** 2. Early Christian Literature.

#### 1. The History of Early Christianity

9. What were the achievements of Herod the Great? Do you think that he served the Jewish people well or is he better described as a collaborator?
10. Judea in the time of Jesus was a society full of social divisions and conflicts. Use two examples from the Gospels you have studied to illustrate the existence of such divisions.
11. The destruction of the temple in the year 70 caused both Jews and early Christian communities to reassess its role. Discuss.
12. Jesus was a thorough Jew. Discuss this statement making reference to his attitude towards the temple and the torah.

#### 2. Early Christian Literature

13. Using the evidence of I Corinthians discuss the problems which faced the early Christian communities in Corinth. In your answer you may choose to focus on either I Cor 1:1- 6:20 or 7:1 -16:9.
14. In the Gospel of Mark Jesus frequently tells people *not to tell* others about his healings or exorcisms. From the reader's point of view, what do you think this contributes to the story?
15. Over one third of the Gospel of Mark is devoted to the final week of Jesus' life. How does this fit into Mark's overall aims?

16. **Either** Discuss the background to the debate about circumcision in Acts 15:1-35. What does it tell us about this early Christian community and its Jewish roots?

**Or** Discuss Stephen's contribution to the development of the early Christian movement according to the story as it is told in the Acts of the Apostles?