



GCE AS/A level

1344/01

New AS

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RS 1/2 BS - Introduction to Biblical Studies

P.M. TUESDAY, 2 June 2009

1¼ hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

The use of a Bible is NOT permitted.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer questions from one section only, **either** Section A **or** Section B.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

Write the number of each question you answer both alongside your answer and on the front cover of the answer book.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Each question carries 45 marks.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each part-question.

Part (a) of each question tests your knowledge and understanding.

Part (b) of each question tests your skills of reasoning and evaluation.

You are reminded of the need for good English and orderly, clear presentation in your answers.

All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Assessment will take into account the quality of written communication in all your answers.

Answer questions from one section only, either Section A or Section B.

SECTION A: Introduction to the Old Testament

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Examine, with reference to the biblical passages that you have studied, the characteristics of Hebrew prophetic literature. [30]
(b) 'The prophets of Israel have no message for us today.'
Assess this view. [15]

2. (a) Explain the events that led to the Babylonian Exile. [30]
(b) 'The Exile was a blessing for Israel.'
Assess this statement. [15]

3. (a) Explain the form **and** sign of the covenant with Noah **and** with Moses. [30]
(b) 'The Exile proved that God had cancelled his covenant with Israel.'
Assess this statement. [15]

4. (a) Explain what is meant by the 'pro-monarchy tradition' and the 'anti-monarchy tradition' with regard to the choice of Saul as the first king of Israel. [30]
(b) 'Saul was a hopeless king.'
Assess this view. [15]

SECTION B: Introduction to the New Testament

Answer two questions.

1. (a) Describe the differences between Matthew and Luke's accounts of Jesus' birth. [30]
(b) 'The main differences between Matthew and Luke's accounts of Jesus' birth may be easily harmonised.'
Assess this view. [15]

2. (a) Examine the contribution made by Form Criticism to the study of Jesus' parables. [30]
(b) 'It does not matter if the explanations of some of Jesus' parables are the work of the early Church.'
Assess this statement. [15]

3. (a) Examine the contribution made by Redaction Criticism to the study of the miracles of Jesus. [30]
(b) 'The miracles of Jesus can easily be explained away.'
Assess this statement. [15]

4. (a) Outline the main differences between the accounts of the crucifixion in the gospels. [30]
(b) 'It is obvious that, after Jesus' burial, someone stole his body.'
Assess this view. [15]