



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

April 20th 2024

BIBLICAL STUDIES

WRITE YOUR CAO NUMBER ON THE FRONT COVER. WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE CORNER FLAP AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE, FOLD IT OVER AND SEAL IT. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR CAO NUMBER WRITE YOUR NAME AND SEAL THE FLAP.

ANSWER FOUR QUESTIONS IN TOTAL: TWO MUST BE FROM SECTION A AND TWO MUST BE FROM SECTION B.

SECTION A

The Old Testament

YOU MUST ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS FROM SECTION A

1. The loss of land, temple, and kingship at the hands of the Babylonians in 586 BCE was catastrophic for Israel's traditional understanding of its special status with YHWH. How did the biblical writers find ways to come to terms with this? In your view, did they succeed?

2. Using some of the accounts of individual kings from 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings, assess the Deuteronomistic History's reliability as a source for writing history.

3. EITHER

Do you agree that the book of Job challenges the traditional biblical view of a God who acts justly?

OR

3. Is Job's God loving?

4. EITHER

Amos' view of the people of Israel is that they are no better than any of the nations that surround them. Given Israel's chosen status, what kind of an impact do you think this view might have had on those who heard Amos' preaching?

OR

4. How does Amos link justice to his Creation theology? Do you think he expected his listeners to relate to this particular aspect of his preaching?

5. The fact that the destruction of Samaria is recounted both in the Bible and in Assyrian records enables us to piece together the events. However, both accounts

contain political and theological biases relative to the values and beliefs of these two societies. Discuss.

SECTION B: THE NEW TESTAMENT

YOU MUST ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION

6. EITHER

Jesus held a radically negative view of Judaism and intended to establish an entirely new religion. Is this a defensible statement?

OR

6. Jesus was so critical of the faith into which he was born that he cannot really be described as a Jew. Do you agree with this statement?

7. Jewish views and beliefs about the Jerusalem temple meant that the Roman destruction of it in 70 CE had a fundamental impact on Jewish communities everywhere. Discuss.

8. What was it about the city of Corinth that resulted in so much misunderstanding of the meaning of the Eucharist as it was understood by Paul?

9. Acts illustrates the many and varying problems that the first missionaries encountered. Discuss.

10. EITHER

What stories from the Gospels illustrate the value that Jesus placed on an individual woman's faith and her understanding of that faith?

OR

10. Within the Jewish and Roman worlds, Jesus' inclusion of women was radical. Discuss.

11. Were Jesus' views of social justice rooted in his Jewish values or were they something entirely new?