



NOVEMBER 2017 – EXAMINATION

Department of Religion Studies

Lecturers: Dr Shahid Mathee and Prof Farid Esack

Course: REL 1B21 Introduction to Judaism & Islam

Date: November 2017

Duration: 3 hours

Total Marks: 100

Instructions

This paper has two sections. Each section counts fifty marks. Do both sections.

SECTION 1: JUDAISM

There are eight questions in this section. Answer any **five** questions.

Question 1:

The *Torah* has two dimensions. Name and discuss them (10)

Question 2:

- b. Name the minor holy days (2)
- c. Give the words of the *Shema*. What do they affirm (3)
- d. The meaning of the following words: *kadesh, sar, sitt, mitzvot, midrash* (5)

Question 3:

Give an overview of the history of Judaism from Abraham to Moses (10)

Question 4:

Mention and discuss the fundamental concern of the Prophet Amos (10)

Question 5:

- a. Explain what the *Agadah* and *Halakha* are (5)
- b. Name three literary Prophets of Israel who have books named after them in the Hebrew Bible (3)
- c. Name two religious institutions of ancient Israel (2)

Question 6:

Give an account of the Jewish community in South Africa in terms of place of origin, profession, social status, and political leanings (10)

Question 7:

- a. Briefly discuss the presence of Jewish women in court according to the Geniza documents. (5)
- b. Explain in brief Rabbi Susan Grossman's decision to pray with *Tefillin* (5)

Question 8:

Discuss the branch of Reform Judaism (10)

SECTION 2: ISLAM

There are eight questions in this section. Answer any **five** questions.

Question 1:

There are two major sources of Muslim Law and Ethics. a) Name and describe both of them and b) describe the difference and the relationship between the two.

Question 2:

- 2.1 a) What is the meaning of 'Qibla'; b) why is this important and c) what are some of the indications that Muslim are very respectful towards it? (5)
- 2.2 What are the meaning of the following words: *madressah*, *Hadith*, *Sunnah*, *Iman*, *Ramadan* (5)

Question 3:

Give an overview of the life of Muhammad before he become a Prophet. (10)

Question 4:

Name and describe the five pillars of the Islam (10)

Question 5:

- 5.1 Explain some of the religious ideas and religio-cultural practices around the conception and birth of a Muslim child (5)
- 5.2 Explain the notion of *Bulugh* (lit. "to reach") and/or *taklif* (lit. "responsibility") in Islamic law and how this exists in tension between current social concepts of transitioning to adulthood. (5)

Question 6:

What is a Muslims' conception or belief about a) death, b) the end of time as we know it and c) life after death? (10)

Question 7:

List and describe the various Muslim responses to HIV & AIDS and provide the religious justification, basis and/or ideas for as many of these responses as you are able to. (10)

Question 8.

Discuss the following statement in relation to Muslim and/or religious communities in general:

“In their obsession with sex, religious people are often incapable of seeing how issues of social, economic and gender justice impact on an illness such as HIV and AIDS. In responding to HIV & AIDS, they can therefore only focus on caring and charity instead of addressing the underlying problems on inequality.” (10)