



NOVEMBER EXAMS - 2018

MAIN EXAM

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION STUDIES

Lecturers: Dr Shahid Mathee and Prof Farid Esack

Course: REL 1b21/REL 1bb1 - Introduction to Judaism & Islam

Date: November 2018

Duration: 2 hours

Total Marks: 100

Instructions

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

SECTION 1: JUDAISM

There are six (6) questions in this section. Question 1 is obligatory. Choose two from questions 2 to 6.

Question 1:

Explain any five (5) of the following terms:

Peruvians, Geniza, *Tefillin*, *Yom Kippur*, *Rosh Hashanah*, *mitzvot*, *Halachah*, Holocaust, *Tanakh*, Tikvat Israel (10).

Question 2:

In studying the Torah, the Rabbis were concerned with discovering its underlying ethical purposes. Discuss this point in relation to the ritual of Shechitah, dietary laws, regard for human life, waste, treatment of slaves, theft, sensibilities (20).

Question 3:

Give a detailed account of the two waves of Jewish immigration to South Africa in relation to socio-economic status, religiosity, political persuasions, occupations/professions, and response to Apartheid (20).

Question 4:

- a. Explain a theology of economics in Jewish teachings (10).
- b. Explain in brief Rabbi Susan Grossman's decision to pray with *Tefillin* (10).

Question 5:

- a. Discuss the connotations of Jewish women's names found in the Geniza documents. (10)
- b. Write briefly on the heroic Warsaw Ghetto uprising of 1943 (10).

Question 6

Explain Santiago Slabodsky's Decolonial Jewish thought (20).

SECTION 2: ISLAM

Choose any five from the six (6) questions in this section.

Question 1

Explain any five (5) of the following terms:

1.1. *Hajj* 1.2. Ramadan 1.3 *Hadith* 1.4. Shariah, 1.5 Islamophobia 1.6 *Bulugh* (10).

Question 2:

Discuss in fair detail the foundations of Islamic law and ethics (10).

Question 3:

Give a detailed account of background of Muslim presence in South Africa and their role in the socio-political life in the country (10).

Question 4

4 a. What is the Muslim conception of God? (4 marks)

4. b. What is the Muslim idea of creation and the beginnings of the human species? (6 marks)

Question 5:

Provide a summary of the early life of Muhammad before he announced his Prophethood (10)

Question 6

Mention and explain the Pillars of Islam and explain which be the easiest and which the most difficult to implement and provide your reasons for this (10)