



**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY, HUMANITIES
AND EDUCATION**

INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**NTBS509 HISTORY AND METHODS IN THE STUDY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT:
PATRISTIC TO THE REFORMATION PERIOD.**

END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

AUG-NOV, 2020

LECTURER: DR. T.M.MUNENGWA

DURATION: 24 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do not write your name on the answer sheet.
2. Answer **ONE** question.
3. Marks for each question are indicated.
4. Credit is given for neat, well written and lucid work.

1. The early Church Fathers and Apologists provided the much needed teaching for the early Christian church in its formative period. One important area was the relevancy of the Old Testament to the Christian movement, and the appropriate ways of interpreting the Old Testament for use in Christian worship, teaching and evangelization.
 - a) Examine the contribution, of **either** one early Church Father **or** Apologist that you have studied, to the ways of interpreting the Old Testament; [30]
 - b) Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the approaches that you have examined in (a); [30]
 - c) Demonstrate how you would apply any one of the approaches you have examined in (a) in your reading and interpretation of the Old Testament. [40]
2. Orthodoxy and heresy were hot issues during the Patristic Era.
 - a) Analyze the contribution of the different interpretations of the Old Testament to the issues of orthodoxy and heresy during the patristic era. [30]
 - b) In the light of your answer in (a), discuss the proposals given by Irenaeus and Tertullian for guiding, discerning and safeguarding the correct meaning of passages of Scripture; [30]
 - c) Learning from Irenaeus and Tertullian's approaches and interpretations of the Old Testament, propose an approach to the Old Testament that may make Scripture relevant to your context. [40]
3. Answer **either** a) **or** b)
 - a) Traditionally it has been proposed that there were two distinct exegetical schools in the 2nd and 3rd century early Church.
 - i. Give a critical summary of this proposal; [30]
 - ii. Discuss the legitimacy and appropriateness of this proposal; [30]
 - iii. Examine the factors that contributed to the approach and methods in the reading and interpretation of the Old Testament during this period. [40]
 - b) In the *City of God* Augustine wrote that the Old Testament is 'revelatory history'.
 - i. Analyze Augustin's statement above. [50]
 - ii. Demonstrate how this statement may help your reading and interpretation of the Old Testament in the post-modern era. [50]

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