



**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY, HUMANITIES AND
EDUCATION
INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**NTBS102 JESUS AND THE GOSPELS
END OF SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS
MAY 2021
LECTURER: DR. L CHABATA
DURATION: 7HRS**

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do NOT write your name on the answer sheet
2. Answer **ONE** Question
3. Credit will be given for neat, well-written and lucid work.

TMM

1. The NT Gospels appear to be similar to other ancient literature in some ways, yet distinctive enough in content, form, theology and purpose to set them apart from other literature (Diehl, 2011).
 - a) Summarize scholarly views on how each of the three Synoptic Gospel writers uses of the term 'gospel'. **[20]**
 - b) With reference to any one of the four canonical Gospels, examine the literary and theological features of the Gospels that make them distinct from similar ancient literature from the Ancient Near East. **[40]**
 - c) Discuss the validity of the view that whereas the Synoptic Gospels may be historical, the fourth Gospel is certainly theological in character. **[40]**

2. Source Criticism is a method of interpreting the Bible which seeks to identify and isolate for purposes of analysis, the various sources, which are believed to have been used during the writing of biblical books (Bishau, 2010).
 - a) Summarize views of New Testament scholars on what is meant by the 'Synoptic Problem'. **[30]**
 - b) Demonstrate your understanding of how the Four Source Theory proposes to address the 'Synoptic Problem'. **[30]**
 - c) Discuss how any one [1] of the canonical Gospels uses the Old Testament as a source and give possible reasons why you think the Gospel you have chosen used the Old Testament in that manner. **[40]**

3. Kranz (2018) argues that we have four different gospels because during the early church period, four people found it necessary to tell the story of Jesus from four different perspectives.
 - a) Explain the differences between Synoptic Gospels and the Fourth Gospel's portrayal of the Holy Spirit. **[30]**
 - b) Explain the Messianic Secrecy theme in Mark's Gospel. **[30]**
 - c) Illustrate the theme of the Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew and examine the relevance of this theme in the discussions about the nature and mission of the Church in the 21st century Africa. **[40]**

-THE END-