



UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION (SOE)

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

RES 221: INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

DATE 6TH AUGUST 2026

DURATION: 2

HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 70

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** Carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. **Write all your answers in the examination answer booklet provided.**

QUESTION ONE

Read the case study below carefully and answer questions that follow:

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THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament is part of the Christian sacred or holy book to both the Jews and Christians. Jesus and his apostles embraced and used the Bible because it is the word of God. The Old Testament consists of 39 books written and collected over a period exceeding 1000 years. Christians have always read the Bible for comfort, strength encouragement, guidance, vision for the future etc. The Old Testament books are of unequal length for example, the book of Obadiah is barely a page long, while Psalms has 150 chapters. The Old Testament is mostly written in Hebrew although small portion of Ezra, Jeremiah and Daniel are written in Aramaic. The Old Testament books exhibit great diversity of literary style including narrative, poetry, sermons, dialogue prayers, hymns/songs, letters and prophecies.

The Old Testament books are arranged in the order of the law, history, poetry and prophecy. The law books of the Pentateuch (Genesis- Deuteronomy) and the history books (Joshua - Esther) are presented to narration or historical format. The poetic books (Job-Songs of Solomon) were grouped together because they are presented in poetic form. These books deal with personal issues from human devotion to God to human love. The prophetic books (Isaiah - Malachi) contain the complex messages of the Israelites prophets. These messages of the Israelites prophets are urgent, direct, contemporary, morally informed and filled with warning, promise and judgment. There is also a universal element in the messages. They reach out to nations surrounding Israel as well.

The Bible is a unique book both the Old and New Testament are inspired (2 Tim 3:16-17), hence useful for teaching, correcting and equipping God's

people for God's service. The first books in the arrangement of the Old Testament is the Pentateuch. The term pentateuch is derived from the Greek words penta - five and teuchos- scroll meaning five scrolls or volumes. The Hebrew term for these five books of the Old Testament is Torah which means the "law" of 'teaching. The Old Testament refers to the Pentateuch when it uses phrases like the book of 'Law of Moses' (2 Kings 15:5) or the Book of the Law (Joshua 1:8)

The history of the pentateuch spans from the beginning of the time down to when the Israelites were about to enter into the promised land. The pentateuch is believed to have been one scroll before it was thematically subdivided into five books by the Bible compilers. The authorship of the pentateuch has traditionally been accredited to Moses who is believed to have written it in around 1450-1400BC; however it is worth noting that every Bible scholar shares in this belief. In the 19th and 20th centuries arose Biblical critics who doubted the mosaic authorship of the pentateuch.

The book of Genesis gives a vivid account of the creation story in which God created the universe and all that it contained including mankind. It is in the book of Genesis that God entered into the first covenant with man-kind, **The Edenic covenant**. The book of Genesis further describes man's failure to keep the covenant and later gave into the deception of the devil (serpent). This was the beginning of sin, physical death and external penalty of sin. God however, made a redemption plan through the Abrahamic lineage. God elected Abraham as a channel through which God was going to carry out his redemption plan for the human race. God made a covenant with Abraham, **Abrahamic Covenant**, and promised him land flowing with milk and honey, that sacrifice and circumcision rite marked and sealed the Abrahamic covenant. The Hebrew nation became the vehicle of God's redemption. The three Abraham, Isaac and Jacob became the patriarchs of the Hebrew Community and carriers of the redemption story. The climax of the redemption story was in the person of Jesus Christ still born through the Abrahamic lineage. The Old Testament books further provide a vivid narration of the life of the Israel people and their relationship with God. This laid a foundation for the beliefs practices and doctrines in Christianity.

The book of Leviticus emphasises holiness as paramount in man's relationship with God. Holiness was perfected through the sacrificial system. Leviticus emphasises holiness as paramount in man's relationship with God. Holiness was perfected through the sacrificial system. The Old Testament further provides a vivid description of God's people encountered wars which divided the kingdom of Israel. This caused the separation of the Southern Kingdom and the Northern Kingdom. This caused a lot of suffering to God's chosen people. Most of the Biblical knowledge has been founded by archaeological studies. Biblical archaeology confirm the substantial historicity of Biblical findings.

Required:

- a) From the knowledge acquired in this unit. Examine five factors that characterize the uniqueness of the Bible.

(10 marks)

- b) In those days Israel had no King everyone did as he saw fit (Jud. 17:6) Examine any five common sins that characterized the days of Judges.

(5 marks)

- c) Explore the historical content of the Pentateuch. **(10 marks)**

QUESTION TWO

- a) The book of Genesis vividly narrates the manner in which God created the world. Explore five main features that characterize the creating story. **(10 marks)**

- b) Examine any three applications of the fourth and fifth commandments in the human society. **(3 marks)**

- c) Propose any two ways God manifests His presence among his people today. **(2 marks)**

QUESTION THREE

- a) The 19th and 20th centuries critiques doubted the mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch. Propose any five facts that qualify mosaic authorship.
(10 marks)
- b) Distinguish five unique features applied in God's creation of man.
(5 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- a) Analyze the post-exilic messages of the following:-
- (i) Haggai
 - (ii) Malachi
 - (iii) Zachariah . **(9 marks)**
- b) Propose any three applications of the prophetic messages above to the present Christian life. **(3 marks)**
- c) Examine any three ways the present – day society is characterized by moral decay. **(3marks)**

QUESTION FIVE

- a) Explore five dominant themes that characterize the book of Genesis. **(10 marks)**
- b) Leviticus 11: 45 emphasize holiness in relation with God. Analyze the significance of any five sacrifices offered by Israelites to perfect holiness.
(5 marks)

QUESTION SIX

- a) Assess five benefits of the Abrahamic covenant to the Israelites.
(5 marks)

- b) Analyze five important teachings to the Jewish remnants of the post – exilic era. **(5 marks)**
- c) Propose five contributions of the Biblical Archaeology to the religious education student. **(5 marks)**