

The  
Management  
University  
of Africa



Sponsored by the Kenya Institute of Management

**UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**

**SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP**

**DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS**

**RES 223: THEOLOGY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT**

**DATE: 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 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 the question that follows:**

### THE THEOLOGY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Old Testament theology is the systematic study of the theological ideas and themes found within the Hebrew Scriptures, also known as the Old Testament. Its primary concern is to understand how ancient Israel perceived God, humanity, the world, and their relationship with the divine. Rather than imposing later doctrinal frameworks onto the text, Old Testament theology seeks to interpret theological concepts within their historical, literary, and cultural contexts. This approach recognizes the Old Testament as a diverse collection of writings produced over many centuries, reflecting varied experiences and perspectives within the Israelite community.

A central theme in Old Testament theology is the nature and character of God. God is revealed through actions such as creation, deliverance, judgment, and covenant-making. The divine name, often rendered as Yahweh, emphasizes God's personal relationship with Israel. This relationship is not abstract but grounded in historical events, particularly the Exodus, which serves as a foundational act of salvation and shapes Israel's understanding of God as liberator and sustainer.

Covenant is another key theological concept in the Old Testament. Covenants establish binding relationships between God and humanity, most notably with figures such as Noah, Abraham, and Moses, as well as with the nation of Israel as a whole. These covenants involve promises, obligations, and ethical expectations, highlighting the idea that faithfulness to God is expressed through obedience and justice. The Mosaic covenant, articulated in the law or Torah, integrates religious, moral, and social dimensions, emphasizing holiness, communal responsibility, and care for the vulnerable. Law in Old Testament theology is therefore not merely legalistic but serves as a guide for living in right relationship with God and others.

The Old Testament also places strong emphasis on themes of sin, judgment, and restoration. Human disobedience disrupts the relationship between God and humanity, leading to consequences that affect individuals and the broader

community. The prophetic literature addresses these failures by calling Israel to repentance and faithfulness. Prophets function as theological interpreters of history, explaining national crises—such as exile—not simply as political events but as moments of divine judgment. At the same time, prophetic writings offer hope, emphasizing God’s mercy and commitment to restoration, renewal, and future blessing.

Wisdom literature contributes a distinct theological perspective within the Old Testament. Books such as Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes explore questions of suffering, justice, and the meaning of life through reflection on human experience. Rather than focusing primarily on covenant history, wisdom theology examines how faith relates to everyday life and moral decision-making. These texts acknowledge the complexity of existence and resist simplistic explanations for suffering, thereby enriching Old Testament theology with realism and philosophical depth.

Overall, Old Testament theology presents a dynamic and multifaceted understanding of God and humanity. Its theological message emerges through narrative, law, poetry, prophecy, and wisdom, rather than through a single systematic doctrine. By attending to this diversity, Old Testament theology provides insight into the foundational beliefs that shaped ancient Israel and continue to influence Jewish and Christian thought today.

**Required:**

- a) Examine the significance of the Ten Commandments in Israelite’s theology and ethical living. **(10 marks)**
- b) Evaluate **five** attributes of God as reflected in the Old Testament. **(5 marks)**
- c) Propose five solutions to sexual deviance like homosexuality. **(5 marks)**
- d) Assess **five** roles of the church in the political arena of Kenya. **(5 marks)**

**QUESTION TWO**

- a) Analyze the criteria used to select the books of the Old Testament. **(5 marks)**
- b) Examine the theology of election as presented in the Old Testament.

**(10 marks)**

### QUESTION THREE

- a) Analyze the theological significance of the story of the fall of man. **(5 marks)**
- b) Evaluate **five** roles played by prophets in the Old Testament. **(10 marks)**

### QUESTION FOUR

- a) Analyze the Sinai covenant and its role in shaping Christian faith. **(5 marks)**
- b) Describe **five** importance of the Ark of the Covenant to the Israelites.

**(10 marks)**

### QUESTION FIVE

- a) Examine the chosen people of God in the Old Testament and the responsibilities that came with election. **(5 marks)**
- b) Compare and contrast the roles of priests in the Old Testament and African traditional religion. **(10 marks)**

### QUESTION SIX

- a) Analyze the Old Testament understanding of 'The Day of the Lord'. **(5 marks)**
- b) Examine the theme of salvation as presented in the Old Testament. **(10 marks)**