

553/02

RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 3b

An Introduction to The Old Testament

P.M. THURSDAY, 8 June 2006

(1 hour)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

You are permitted to use a Bible, which may include the Apocrypha.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

Write your answers in the separate answer-book provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

All questions carry 20 marks. The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all questions.

Answer **Question 1** and **one other question**.

1.

An awareness of the variety of types of literature within the Old Testament is essential for the twenty-first century reader. In particular, it is important that myth and legend are recognised as conveying ideas rather than historical fact. Also realising that there are different kinds of myth (ritual, origin, cult, prestige and so on) and that legends have more than one purpose (such as ethnological, geographical and cultic) is helpful to understanding the text.

- (a) Explain, with reference to examples from the Old Testament, the nature of **either** *myth* **or** *legend*. [10]
- (b) Explain why it is thought that *an awareness of the variety of types of literature within the Old Testament is essential*. [10]
2. (a) Outline the circumstances which resulted in the Exile to Babylon. [10]
- (b) ‘The Exile was a good thing for the Israelites.’
Assess this statement. [10]
3. (a) Explain why some Israelites believed that the monarchy was an institution given by God but other Israelites thought it was a sign of departing from God’s will. [10]
- (b) ‘King David’s reign showed that monarchy was given by God and was not a sign of departing from God’s will.’
Assess this statement. [10]