

553/02

RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 3b

An Introduction to the Old Testament

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 17 January 2007

(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.

Solomon became king of Israel in a different way from Saul and David before him. According to some scholars, Solomon appears to have become king without either God selecting him or the people proclaiming him. However, the fact that his reign has often been portrayed as a golden age in Israel's history shows that Solomon seemed to be a successful king.

- (a) Explain how Solomon *became king of Israel*. [10]
- (b) Explain why Solomon *seemed to be a successful king*. [10]
2. (a) Identify and illustrate distinctive characteristics of apocalyptic literature. [10]
- (b) 'The main purpose of apocalyptic writing was to inspire those suffering for their faith.'
Assess this statement. [10]
3. (a) Explain how events in the story of the Exodus are presented as being due to God's intervention. [10]
- (b) 'The biblical account of the Exodus is unhistorical.'
Assess this claim. [10]