553/02

RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 3b

An Introduction to The Old Testament

P.M. THURSDAY, 7 June 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.

> The story of the Exile is a religious interpretation of history. The Exile is presented by biblical writers as a just punishment. The popular idea that God would never let his Chosen People be defeated by their enemies had been shown to be false. So Israelite prophets were keen to explain why the Exile had happened. They affirmed that God is faithful to his people but also that he expects faithfulness from his people. The problems faced by the Israelites in Exile gave them a chance to change for the better.

(a) Explain why the story of the Exile can be regarded as *a religious interpretation of history*.

[10]

(b) Give an account of the *problems faced by the Israelites in Exile*.   [10]

2. *(a)* Explain the importance of the covenant with Moses.   [10]

(b) 'Stories of the Old Testament covenants tell more about the Hebrew people than about the Hebrews' God.'
Assess this statement.   [10]

3. *(a)* Examine the role of an Israelite king.   [10]

(b) Assess how successful Saul was in fulfilling the role of king.   [10]