



GCE AS/A level

553/02

RELIGIOUS STUDIES RS 3b
An Introduction to The Old Testament

P.M. TUESDAY, 3 June 2008

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.

David's rise to power and becoming king of Israel was such that he was a legendary character even before he became king. When he did become king, his reign was thought to be so successful that he was portrayed as the 'ideal king of Israel'. The Old Testament writers of Israel's history believed him to be both the architect of the nation of Israel and the supreme champion of Israel's faith.

(a) Describe the circumstances leading to David's *rise to power and becoming king of Israel*. [10]

(b) Explain why David was *portrayed as the 'ideal king of Israel'*. [10]

2. (a) Explain why the Exodus was an important event for Hebrew religion. [10]

(b) 'The Exodus was a natural happening exaggerated by Hebrew tradition.'
Assess this statement. [10]

3. (a) Explain, with examples from the Old Testament, differences between 'myth' and 'legend'. [10]

(b) 'The Old Testament can be fully understood only if it is regarded as unhistorical.'
Assess this claim. [10]