

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF TANZANIA
ADVANCED CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION

114/1

DIVINITY 1

(For Both School and Private Candidates)

Time: 3 Hours

ANSWERS

Year: 2010

Instructions:

1. this paper consists of Ten questions.
2. Answer five questions. Question number one is compulsory
3. Each question carries twenty marks.

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1. Comment on five of the items (a)-(j):

a. "I gave you cleanliness of teeth in all your cities." (Amos 4:6).

answer

This statement refers to famine as a form of divine judgment. Cleanliness of teeth symbolizes a lack of food, indicating that the people faced hunger due to their sins and rebellion against God. Amos highlights this as one of the ways God tried to call Israel back to repentance.

b. "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." (Isaiah 11:1).

answer

This prophecy foretells the coming of the Messiah, who would be a descendant of Jesse, the father of David. The "shoot" represents hope and renewal, as the Messiah would bring justice, peace, and restoration to God's people.

c. "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." (2 Kings 5:10).

answer

This command was given to Naaman by the prophet Elisha. Naaman, a leper, initially doubted the simplicity of the instruction but eventually obeyed and was miraculously healed. This illustrates the importance of faith and obedience to God's word.

d. "... When he saw the angel who was smiting the people, and said, 'Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let thy hand, I pray thee, be against me and against my father's house.'" (2 Samuel 24:17).

answer

David uttered this statement during a plague sent as a consequence of his sin in taking a census. It demonstrates David's humility and responsibility, as he sought to protect his people by accepting the punishment himself.

e. "Up! For this is the day in which the Lord has given Sisera into your hand." (Judges 4:14).

answer

This was spoken by Deborah to Barak during the battle against Sisera. It reflects Deborah's faith and assurance that God would give victory to Israel over their enemies, showing God's power and involvement in their deliverance.

2. List and explain five miracles done by Elisha that revealed him as a messenger of God and the presence of the power of God amongst his people.

answer

- i. Purification of water: Elisha purified the bitter water at Jericho by throwing salt into it, making it drinkable (2 Kings 2:19-22). This miracle showed God's power to restore and provide for His people.
- ii. Multiplication of oil: Elisha multiplied a widow's oil, enabling her to pay her debts and support her family (2 Kings 4:1-7). This demonstrated God's care for the needy.
- iii. Raising of the Shunammite woman's son: Elisha raised the woman's son from the dead, showing God's authority over life and death (2 Kings 4:18-37).
- iv. Healing of Naaman: Elisha instructed Naaman to wash in the Jordan River, resulting in the healing of his leprosy (2 Kings 5:1-14). This miracle revealed God's power to heal and His grace to non-Israelites.
- v. Feeding of the hundred: Elisha fed a hundred men with twenty loaves of bread, with food left over (2 Kings 4:42-44). This act mirrored God's provision and foreshadowed the miracles of Jesus.

3. Jeremiah used various symbolic acts to convey his message. Trace and illustrate five of them.

answer

- i. The linen belt: Jeremiah buried a linen belt and later retrieved it when it was ruined, symbolizing Judah's corruption and uselessness to God (Jeremiah 13:1-11).
- ii. The shattered jar: Jeremiah broke a clay jar to represent God's impending judgment on Jerusalem, symbolizing its complete destruction (Jeremiah 19:1-11).
- iii. The yoke: Jeremiah wore a yoke to symbolize Judah's submission to Babylon and the futility of resisting God's will (Jeremiah 27:1-22).
- iv. The field purchase: Jeremiah bought a field during the Babylonian siege to symbolize hope and God's promise of restoration (Jeremiah 32:6-15).

v. The basket of figs: Jeremiah compared good figs to the faithful remnant and bad figs to those who would face judgment, illustrating God's separation of the righteous from the wicked (Jeremiah 24:1-10).

4. The book of Judges shows us how Israel lost the unity among themselves. Explain why they were disunited and cite four examples of the disunity as stated in the Bible.

Ans:

The disunity among the Israelites during the time of the Judges arose due to their failure to follow God's covenant and the lack of a central leadership. This led to moral decline, idolatry, and tribal conflicts.

i. Idolatry: The Israelites abandoned God and worshipped Baal and other idols, which divided them spiritually and morally (Judges 2:11-13).

ii. Tribal conflicts: There were frequent disputes among the tribes, such as the war between the tribe of Benjamin and the other tribes after the incident at Gibeah (Judges 20).

iii. Failure to complete conquests: The Israelites did not fully conquer the Canaanites, leading to cohabitation and cultural compromises (Judges 1:27-36).

iv. Lack of central leadership: Without a king or unified authority, the tribes acted independently, often leading to chaos and disunity (Judges 21:25).

These examples highlight the consequences of Israel's disobedience and lack of unity during the time of the Judges.

5. Discuss the theme "Holiness of Yahweh" as written in the book of Isaiah.

Ans:

The theme of the holiness of Yahweh is central in Isaiah, portraying God as transcendent, pure, and set apart from all creation.

i. Divine majesty: Isaiah's vision in the temple highlights God's holiness, as the seraphim declare, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty" (Isaiah 6:3).

- ii. Moral perfection: God's holiness is reflected in His justice and righteousness, demanding that His people live morally upright lives (Isaiah 1:16-17).
- iii. Sovereignty: Yahweh's holiness establishes Him as the supreme ruler over all nations, emphasizing His authority and power (Isaiah 40:25).
- iv. Redemption: Despite Israel's sins, God's holiness includes His mercy and willingness to forgive, as seen in His promise to purify and restore them (Isaiah 43:25).
- v. Separation from sin: God's holiness requires separation from sin, urging Israel to repent and live in obedience (Isaiah 59:1-2).

Isaiah portrays God's holiness as a call to worship, moral living, and trust in His sovereign plans.

6. (a) Give an account of the social, political, and religious setting in the kingdom of Israel during the time of Hosea.

Ans:

During Hosea's time, Israel faced significant challenges that shaped its social, political, and religious landscape.

- i. Social decay: Society was marked by corruption, dishonesty, and oppression, with the poor suffering under unjust leaders (Hosea 4:1-2).
- ii. Political instability: Frequent changes in leadership, assassinations, and reliance on foreign alliances weakened the kingdom (Hosea 7:11).
- iii. Religious apostasy: The Israelites worshipped Baal and other idols, abandoning their covenant with Yahweh (Hosea 2:8).

(b). What evils did Prophet Hosea denounce?

Ans:

- i. Idolatry: Hosea condemned the worship of Baal and reliance on idols (Hosea 13:2).
- ii. Injustice: He criticized leaders for exploiting the poor and failing to uphold justice (Hosea 10:13).

iii. Spiritual unfaithfulness: Hosea compared Israel's unfaithfulness to adultery, highlighting their betrayal of God (Hosea 1:2).

Hosea's message emphasized repentance and a return to God's covenant.

7. (a). Outline the instructions which the angel of God gave Manoah and his wife.

Solution:

- i. The child must be a Nazirite from birth, dedicated to God (Judges 13:5).
- ii. The mother must abstain from wine, fermented drink, and unclean food during pregnancy (Judges 13:4).
- iii. The child's hair must not be cut, symbolizing his vow to God (Judges 13:5).

These instructions ensured Samson's consecration as God's servant.

(b). What is the importance of the instructions that were to be observed by the woman in today's situation?

Ans:

- i. Emphasis on obedience: Following God's instructions reflects faith and submission to His will.
- ii. Holiness: The instructions highlight the importance of purity and dedication to God's purposes.
- iii. Parenting: They remind parents of their responsibility to guide children in God's ways.

8. Summarize the allegory of the eagles in Ezekiel 17:1-21.

As:

The allegory involves two eagles representing Babylon and Egypt. The first eagle (Babylon) takes a branch (King Jehoiachin) from a cedar (Judah) and plants it in a fertile land. Later, the vine (Judah) seeks help from the second eagle (Egypt), defying its covenant with Babylon. This results in God's judgment on Judah for its rebellion and unfaithfulness.

9. Describe the fourth vision of Zechariah about Joshua and Satan (Zechariah 3:1-10).

Solution:

In the fourth vision, Joshua, the high priest, stands before God, with Satan accusing him. God rebukes Satan and commands that Joshua's filthy garments (symbolizing sin) be replaced with clean ones, representing forgiveness and restoration. This vision signifies God's grace in cleansing His people and restoring their priestly role.

10. Explain how the themes of "blind" and "deaf" servant are used in the book of Second Isaiah.

The terms "blind" and "deaf" servant describe Israel's spiritual condition. Despite being chosen as God's servant to proclaim His message, Israel failed to see or hear God's will due to disobedience (Isaiah 42:18-20). However, these terms also reflect God's commitment to restoring and using Israel to fulfill His purposes. This theme underscores God's mercy and Israel's responsibility to live faithfully.