

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

114/1

DIVINITY 1

(For Both School and Private Candidates)

Time : 3 Hours

ANSWERS

Year : 2016

Instructions

1. This paper consists of sections **ten (10)** questions.
2. Answer **five (5)** questions. Question number **one (1)** is compulsory.
3. Each question carries **twenty (20)** marks.
4. Bibles and other unauthorised materials are **not** allowed in the examination room.
5. Write your **Examination Number** on every page of your answer booklet(s).

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1. Comment on five (5) of the following:

(a) “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD?” (1 Samuel 15:22)

This verse emphasizes the importance of obedience over ritual. God is not primarily interested in outward sacrifices if they are not accompanied by a heart of obedience. Samuel’s words to Saul reveal that true worship is measured by submission to God’s will, not by outward religious acts.

(b) “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” (Judges 21:25)

This statement describes the moral and social chaos of Israel during the time of the Judges. Without strong and godly leadership, people lived according to personal desires, leading to disunity and sin. It highlights the need for divine and centralized leadership to maintain covenant faithfulness.

(c) “The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man.” (Genesis 39:2)

This passage shows that God’s presence is the key to true success, regardless of circumstances. Though Joseph was a slave in Egypt, God’s favor turned his misfortune into blessing. His life demonstrates how faithfulness in trials brings divine upliftment and eventual purpose.

(d) “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” (1 Kings 18:21)

Elijah’s challenge on Mount Carmel called Israel to make a decisive choice about their loyalty. The statement confronts spiritual compromise and highlights the necessity of total devotion to God. It remains a timeless call for believers to abandon divided loyalties.

(h) “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” (Hosea 4:6)

This verse emphasizes the destructive power of ignorance, especially spiritual ignorance. Israel’s rejection of God’s law led to their downfall, as they failed to understand His ways. It warns that knowledge of God and His word is essential for life, blessing, and stability.

2. Assess the role of divine leadership in the time of the Judges and how it prepared Israel for the monarchy.

During the period of the Judges, divine leadership was exercised through individuals raised up by God in times of crisis. These leaders, such as Gideon, Deborah, and Samson, acted as deliverers who reminded Israel that victory and security came from the Lord. Their leadership was not hereditary but

charismatic, showing God's direct intervention in history.

This period also exposed the limitations of temporary deliverers, as Israel repeatedly fell back into sin after each judge's death. The cycle of sin, oppression, repentance, and deliverance revealed the people's deeper need for consistent and lasting leadership.

Thus, the experience prepared Israel for the monarchy, where the hope was that a king could provide continuous governance under God's authority.

3. Examine the successes and failures of David as king, and explain how his reign shaped Israel's spiritual identity.

David's successes included uniting the twelve tribes into a strong kingdom, defeating Israel's enemies, and establishing Jerusalem as both the political and religious center. His bringing of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem signified God's presence at the heart of the nation. Spiritually, his psalms enriched Israel's worship life and expressed deep devotion to God.

However, David also had failures, most notably his sin with Bathsheba and the arranged killing of her husband, Uriah. These actions brought family turmoil and political instability, showing the consequences of moral failure in leadership.

Despite his shortcomings, David remained a man after God's own heart, modeling repentance and faith. His reign shaped Israel's spiritual identity by linking kingship with covenant faithfulness, and by setting the stage for the messianic hope rooted in his lineage.

4. Analyze the confrontation between Elijah and the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, and discuss its significance for Israel's covenant faith.

The confrontation on Mount Carmel was a decisive moment in Israel's history. Elijah challenged the people to choose between Yahweh and Baal, demonstrating that only the Lord was the true God. When fire consumed Elijah's sacrifice, it proved God's power and exposed the futility of Baal worship.

This event reaffirmed the covenant, calling Israel back to exclusive worship of Yahweh. It also showed that God responds to faith and prayer, not to ritualistic frenzy. The incident's significance lay in reestablishing God's supremacy in a time of widespread apostasy.

5. Examine the theme of judgment and hope in Isaiah, showing how it addressed both immediate and future concerns of Israel.

Isaiah's message balanced warnings of judgment with promises of hope. Judgment came as a result of Israel's sins, such as idolatry, injustice, and reliance on foreign alliances. He predicted invasions and exile as consequences of their disobedience.

At the same time, Isaiah provided hope through visions of restoration. He spoke of a coming Messiah who would bring justice, peace, and salvation. For the immediate audience, his words reminded them of God's holiness and the need for repentance. For the future, they pointed to redemption through Christ, offering assurance that God's purposes would prevail.

6. Discuss Jeremiah's use of symbolic actions in communicating God's message to Judah. Provide at least three examples and their meaning.

One example is Jeremiah wearing a yoke on his neck (Jeremiah 27). This symbolized Judah's coming submission to Babylon, warning them not to resist but to accept God's discipline.

Another example is Jeremiah buying a field while Jerusalem was under siege (Jeremiah 32). This act symbolized hope and restoration, showing that life would continue after exile.

A third example is Jeremiah's visit to the potter's house (Jeremiah 18). The reshaping of clay illustrated God's sovereignty over nations, including Judah, reminding them that God could rebuild or destroy depending on their response.

These symbolic acts conveyed God's message in vivid, unforgettable ways, making spiritual truths clear through visible actions.

7. Ezekiel lived and prophesied among the exiles in Babylon. How did his visions and prophecies strengthen their faith and identity?

Ezekiel's visions provided assurance that God had not abandoned His people, even in exile. His vision of God's glory departing from Jerusalem showed that God's presence was not confined to the temple but extended to the exiles in Babylon.

His prophecy of the valley of dry bones symbolized national restoration, assuring the people that God could revive them from despair and hopelessness.

Ezekiel also emphasized personal responsibility, teaching that each individual was accountable for their own actions before God. This strengthened their faith by shifting the focus from collective guilt to personal repentance and renewal.

Overall, Ezekiel's ministry gave hope, reinforced identity as God's covenant people, and promised eventual restoration.

8. Hosea used his personal life as a message to Israel. Discuss the theological significance of his marriage and its implications for understanding God's relationship with His people.

Hosea's marriage to Gomer, a woman unfaithful to him, symbolized Israel's unfaithfulness to God. Just as Gomer betrayed Hosea, Israel had betrayed God through idolatry and covenant breaking. Theologically, this revealed God's deep, covenantal love, which persists even in the face of betrayal.

Hosea's forgiveness of Gomer reflected God's willingness to forgive Israel when they repented. The message emphasized both judgment and grace. Israel's unfaithfulness would bring consequences, but God's love remained steadfast, pointing to restoration and renewed relationship. Hosea's marriage thus illustrated divine love that goes beyond human failure.

9. Show how the post-exilic prophets (Haggai and Zechariah) encouraged the rebuilding of the Temple and the restoration of community life in Jerusalem.

Haggai urged the people to prioritize rebuilding the Temple over personal comfort, declaring that God's blessing depended on their obedience. He reminded them that the Temple symbolized God's presence among them.

Zechariah supported the rebuilding by providing visions of hope and encouragement. He reminded the people that the work would not be accomplished by human strength but by God's Spirit.

Together, their messages revived community spirit, restored confidence in God's promises, and reestablished worship at the center of national life. The Temple became a sign of renewed covenant relationship after exile.

10. Compare and contrast the social concerns of Amos with those of Micah. How do their teachings remain relevant to modern society?

Amos strongly condemned social injustice, especially the exploitation of the poor by the wealthy. He emphasized that true worship must be accompanied by justice and righteousness in society.

Micah, while also addressing injustice, focused on what God requires of His people: to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). His message highlighted ethical living as central to true faith.

Both prophets stressed that religion without justice is meaningless. Their teachings remain relevant today as societies continue to grapple with inequality, corruption, and oppression. They challenge modern believers to integrate faith with social responsibility, ensuring justice and compassion guide communal life.