

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: 2020

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. Having learnt about prophecy and the prophets of the Bible:

(a) Briefly explain the term “prophet.”

A prophet is an individual who is believed to have a special power that allows them to convey messages from God to people, often concerning future events or divine will.

(b) Explain three prophetic roles which religious leaders of today are supposed to play, especially to the corrupt society.

In contemporary society, religious leaders are expected to fulfill several prophetic roles to address corruption:

- **Moral Exemplar:** Religious leaders should model ethical behavior, demonstrating integrity and honesty. By embodying these virtues, they set a standard for others to follow, challenging the normalization of corrupt practices.
- **Advocate for Justice:** They must speak out against injustice and corruption, holding individuals and institutions accountable. This involves denouncing unethical actions and supporting initiatives that promote transparency and fairness.
- **Educator and Reformer:** Religious leaders should educate their communities about the moral and social implications of corruption. By raising awareness and promoting ethical teachings, they can inspire societal transformation towards greater integrity.

2. According to the Book of Prophet Haggai, one can say that selfishness, laziness, unwillingness, and disloyalty among the Israelites and their leaders were reasons for their failure to continue rebuilding the destroyed temple in Jerusalem. However, the Israelites themselves claimed that they failed because they were poor.

(a) What did the prophet say about the claim that they were poor?

Prophet Haggai challenged the Israelites' claim of poverty by pointing out their misplaced priorities. He observed that while they lived in paneled houses, the temple remained in ruins, indicating that their lack of progress was due to neglect rather than genuine poverty.

(b) In three points, show how Haggai's message is relevant to Tanzanian Christians today.

Haggai's message holds relevance for Tanzanian Christians in the following ways:

- **Prioritizing Spiritual Commitments:** Just as the Israelites neglected the temple, individuals today might prioritize personal gains over spiritual responsibilities. Haggai's message encourages placing communal and spiritual obligations at the forefront.
- **Collective Responsibility:** The call to rebuild the temple underscores the importance of community effort. Tanzanian Christians are reminded to work together in addressing societal challenges, fostering unity and shared purpose.
- **Reflecting on Consequences:** Haggai highlighted that the Israelites' hardships were linked to their neglect of divine duties. This serves as a reminder that societal well-being is connected to upholding moral and spiritual values.

3. It is said that the nature of the messages of prophets had some connection with their names. Based on this assertion:

(a) Show how the name Ezekiel was linked to his prophetic mission.

The name "Ezekiel" means "God strengthens" or "God will strengthen." This is linked to his prophetic mission of providing strength and hope to the Israelites during their exile, assuring them of God's continued support.

(b) Briefly explain three commissions given to Ezekiel by Yahweh in connection with his name.

Yahweh entrusted Ezekiel with the following commissions:

- **Watchman for Israel:** Ezekiel was appointed as a watchman to warn the Israelites of impending judgment due to their sins, thereby offering them a chance to repent.
- **Bearer of God's Messages:** He was commanded to deliver God's messages faithfully, regardless of the people's receptiveness, emphasizing the importance of conveying divine truth.
- **Performer of Symbolic Acts:** Ezekiel was instructed to perform symbolic actions, such as lying on his side for an extended period, to represent the siege of Jerusalem, thereby communicating God's messages through vivid illustrations.

4. The prophet's message was presented to the people through his family life.

(a) How did Hosea present his message to his own people? (01 mark)

Prophet Hosea conveyed his message by marrying Gomer, a woman described as promiscuous, symbolizing Israel's unfaithfulness to God through idolatry. His personal life served as a living metaphor for the relationship between God and Israel.

(b) Show how Hosea's three children conveyed his prophetic message to Israel through their names.

Hosea's children's names were symbolic:

- **Jezreel:** Meaning "God will scatter," indicating the impending judgment and scattering of Israel due to their sins.
- **Lo-Ruhamah:** Meaning "Not loved" or "No mercy," signifying that God would withdraw His compassion from Israel because of their persistent unfaithfulness.

- Lo-Ammi: Meaning "Not my people," reflecting the broken relationship between God and Israel as a result of their covenant breaches.

5. Since when Israel was made a chosen nation of God, its leadership was Theocratic, but during the time of Samuel the Israelites demanded for Monarchy.

(a) In one sentence, explain what you know about Theocracy and Monarchy.

A theocracy is a form of government where God is recognized as the supreme ruler, and His laws are interpreted by religious leaders, whereas a monarchy is a political system where a single individual, such as a king or queen, holds sovereign authority over a nation.

(b) Give three reasons for the Israelites demanding for monarchy during the time of Samuel and show whether the reasons were genuine or not.

The Israelites' demand for a monarchy during Samuel's time is detailed in 1 Samuel 8. Their reasons included:

- Desire to Be Like Other Nations:
Reason: The Israelites wanted to have a king to lead them, similar to neighboring nations.
Assessment: This desire indicated a rejection of their unique identity as a nation led directly by God. God viewed this request as a rejection of His kingship over Israel.
- Corruption of Samuel's Sons:
Reason: Samuel's sons, appointed as judges, were corrupt and did not follow his ways, leading the people to seek a different form of leadership.
Assessment: This was a legitimate concern, as the corruption undermined the integrity of the current leadership. However, instead of seeking reform within the existing system, the people opted for a monarchy, which was seen as a rejection of God's established order.
- Desire for Military Leadership:
Reason: The Israelites wanted a king to lead them in battle and provide military security.
Assessment: While the desire for effective military leadership was understandable, it demonstrated a lack of trust in God's protection and guidance, as He had previously delivered them from their enemies.

6. Israel remained a strong and unified kingdom till the reign of King Solomon. After the death of King Solomon, the Kingdom of Israel was divided into two kingdoms.

(a) In which reign was the Kingdom of Israel divided?

The Kingdom of Israel was divided during the reign of Rehoboam, Solomon's son and successor.

(b) Explain three reasons for the division of Israel into two kingdoms and in each reason show its relevance in today's society

i. Heavy Taxation and Forced Labor:

Reason: King Solomon imposed heavy taxes and forced labor on the Israelites to support his extensive building projects. After his death, the northern tribes requested relief from these burdens, but Rehoboam refused, leading to their secession.

Contemporary Relevance: In modern societies, leaders who impose excessive economic burdens without considering the welfare of their citizens risk causing division and dissent. Equitable economic policies are essential for national unity.

ii. Tribal Tensions and Historical Rivalries:

Reason: Long-standing tensions between the northern and southern tribes contributed to the split. The tribe of Judah in the south often held a dominant position, leading to feelings of resentment among the northern tribes.

Contemporary Relevance: Ethnic and regional disparities can lead to societal divisions if not addressed. Modern nations must promote inclusivity and equal representation to maintain unity.

iii. Religious Divergences:

Reason: After the division, Jeroboam, the king of the northern kingdom (Israel), established alternative centers of worship to prevent his people from traveling to Jerusalem in the southern kingdom (Judah). This led to religious fragmentation and idolatry.

Contemporary Relevance: Religious differences can be a source of division within societies. Promoting religious tolerance and understanding is crucial in today's multicultural nations to prevent conflict.

8. The Israelites lost their national unity during the leadership of Judges. In five points, explain how the Israelites were disunited as recorded in the book of Judges and suggest what the members of our societies should do to enhance development.

The Book of Judges illustrates a period of significant disunity among the Israelites, characterized by moral decline, social fragmentation, and repeated cycles of apostasy. Drawing parallels from the Apostle Paul's teachings in the Epistle to the Romans, we can gain insights into the nature of disunity and the path to unity.

i. Moral and Spiritual Decline:

Disunity in Judges: The Israelites repeatedly turned away from God's commandments, engaging in idolatry and immoral practices, leading to internal strife and vulnerability to external enemies.

Paul's Insight: In Romans 1:18–32, Paul discusses how humanity's rejection of God leads to moral decay and societal disintegration. He emphasizes that turning away from divine truth results in a depraved mind and actions that fracture community bonds.

Modern Application: Societies should uphold ethical standards and spiritual values to maintain cohesion. Embracing principles that promote moral integrity can prevent the fragmentation seen in Israel's history.

ii. Lack of Centralized Leadership:

Disunity in Judges: The absence of a unifying leader led to tribalism and inconsistent adherence to laws, as "everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25).

Paul's Insight: Paul, in Romans 13:1, advocates for submission to governing authorities, highlighting the importance of structured leadership in maintaining order and unity.

Modern Application: Establishing and respecting effective leadership structures can guide societies toward common goals and reduce divisions.

iii. Ethnic and Tribal Conflicts:

Disunity in Judges: Inter-tribal disputes, such as the conflict between the tribes of Gibeah and Benjamin (Judges 20), weakened national unity.

Paul's Insight: In Romans 12:4–5, Paul emphasizes the concept of the church as one body with many members, each with a unique role, promoting unity amidst diversity.

Modern Application: Recognizing and valuing diversity within a society can foster unity. Encouraging collaboration and understanding among different groups enhances collective development.

iv. Failure to Uphold Justice:

Disunity in Judges: Instances of injustice, such as the abuse of the Levite's concubine (Judges 19), led to outrage and further division among the tribes.

Paul's Insight: Romans 13:3–4 underscores the role of authorities in promoting good and punishing wrongdoing, highlighting the necessity of justice in society.

Modern Application: Implementing fair legal systems and ensuring accountability can prevent grievances that lead to societal divisions.

v. Economic Disparities and Social Inequities:

Disunity in Judges: Economic inequalities and neglect of communal responsibilities contributed to social fragmentation.

Paul's Insight: In Romans 15:26–27, Paul speaks of the contribution made by the Gentiles to the poor among the saints in Jerusalem, illustrating the importance of mutual support and addressing economic disparities.

Modern Application: Promoting economic equity and social welfare programs can bridge gaps that often lead to disunity, fostering a more cohesive society.

9. "Development has sometimes damaged countries ethically and religiously." With reference to Isaiah Chapters 1 to 8, justify this statement by giving five points.

The initial chapters of the Book of Isaiah highlight how societal advancement and prosperity can lead to ethical and religious decline. Isaiah's prophecies serve as a critique of the moral and spiritual state of Judah and Jerusalem during periods of development. Here are five points illustrating this phenomenon:

(i) Moral Decay Amidst Prosperity:

Reference: Isaiah 1:4

Explanation: Despite material wealth, the nation is described as "a sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity." Their prosperity led to complacency and a departure from righteous living.

(ii) Superficial Religious Practices:

Reference: Isaiah 1:11-15

Explanation: The people continued religious rituals, but their hearts were distant from God. God expresses disdain for their sacrifices, stating, "I have had enough of burnt offerings." This indicates that religious observances had become hollow traditions lacking genuine devotion.

(iii) Social Injustice and Oppression:

Reference: Isaiah 1:17

Explanation: The society neglected justice, failing to defend the fatherless and plead for widows. Economic development led to social stratification, where the vulnerable were marginalized.

(iv) Arrogance and Self-Reliance:

Reference: Isaiah 2:11-12

Explanation: The people became proud, relying on their achievements and wealth. Isaiah warns that "the lofty looks of man shall be humbled," indicating that their arrogance distanced them from God.

(v) Idolatry and Materialism:

Reference: Isaiah 2:8

Explanation: The land was "full of idols," and the people worshipped the work of their own hands. Their focus shifted from spiritual devotion to material possessions and false gods, corrupting their religious integrity.