

**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: 2021

Instructions.

1. This paper consists of **nine (9)** sections three questions.
2. Answer **all** questions from section A and **two (2)** questions from section B.
3. Each questions carries **twenty (20)** marks.
4. Cellular phones are **note** allowed in the examination room.
5. Write your **examination Number** on every page of your answer booklet(s).

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1. (a) Explain the meaning of the term “priest”

A priest is a religious leader appointed to act as a mediator between God and the people. In the Old Testament, priests were responsible for offering sacrifices, performing rituals, leading worship in the temple, and teaching God’s laws to the Israelites.

(b) Explain three differences between priests and prophets.

A priest served in the temple by offering sacrifices and conducting religious ceremonies, while a prophet delivered God’s messages, warnings, and future revelations to the people.

Priests were chosen from a specific tribe, the tribe of Levi, particularly the descendants of Aaron, while prophets were called individually by God regardless of their tribe or social status.

A priest’s role was continuous and regular, involving daily sacrifices and rituals, whereas a prophet’s role was occasional, often arising during times of national crisis or moral decay.

2. (a) Explain the meaning of “inquiry.”

An inquiry is the act of seeking information, guidance, or answers about a particular matter. In a biblical context, it refers to the Israelites asking God for direction, especially through priests, prophets, or sacred objects like the Urim and Thummim.

(b) Explain the form of government for the Israelites after the death of Joshua.

After Joshua’s death, the Israelites were governed by a system of tribal confederation where each tribe was led by its elders, and judges rose occasionally to deliver the people from oppression and lead them in times of war.

(c) Why the Israelites inquired the Lord before a battle.

The Israelites inquired of the Lord to seek divine guidance, approval, and assurance of victory before going to battle, believing that success depended on God’s will and presence.

(d) Show what the LORD’s response implies regarding prayers and its relevance today.

The LORD’s response to inquiries shows that God listens and answers prayers when sought sincerely. It teaches believers today the importance of seeking God’s guidance before making critical decisions and trusting in His direction.

3. (a) Explain the meaning of “Baalism.”

Baalism refers to the worship of Baal, a Canaanite fertility god believed to control rain, agriculture, and prosperity. It involved idolatry, immoral rituals, and sacrifices, practices which contradicted Israel’s faith in Yahweh.

(b) Justify how Baal was nothing before God basing on Elijah’s mission.

During Elijah’s mission on Mount Carmel, the prophets of Baal failed to call down fire on their sacrifice despite loud prayers and self-harm. But when Elijah prayed to Yahweh, fire instantly consumed the offering, proving that Baal was powerless and that only the God of Israel was true and supreme.

4. From 2 Samuel 24,

(a) Explain about the census.

The census in 2 Samuel 24 was a population count ordered by King David to determine the number of fighting men in Israel and Judah, an action that displeased God.

(b) Give reason as to why King David numbered the people.

David numbered the people out of pride and reliance on human strength rather than trusting in God's power for national security and victory in battles.

(c) Explain the outcome of the event.

As a result, God was angered, and a plague struck the nation, killing seventy thousand people. David later repented, and the plague stopped after he built an altar and offered sacrifices at the threshing floor of Araunah.

(d) Explain why the governments today take census.

Governments today conduct censuses to gather accurate population data for effective planning, resource allocation, national budgeting, and development projects such as schools, hospitals, and infrastructure.

5. (a) Explain what the Davidic Branch (Messiah) implies.

The Davidic Branch refers to a promised descendant from King David's lineage who would rule with justice, peace, and righteousness. This prophecy points to the coming of the Messiah, fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

(b) Explain what the words "Spirit filled Davidic Branch," "Spirit led Davidic Branch" and "Warless World" imply.

"Spirit filled Davidic Branch" implies that the Messiah would be empowered by God's Spirit, characterized by wisdom, understanding, and godliness.

"Spirit led Davidic Branch" means that the Messiah's leadership would be guided by the Spirit of God, making decisions rooted in divine wisdom and justice.

"Warless World" implies a future reign under the Messiah where peace, justice, and harmony will prevail, ending oppression, conflict, and injustice.

6. (a) Explain the implication of the words, "the vision of doom."

"The vision of doom" refers to a prophetic revelation announcing impending destruction, punishment, or disaster due to people's sins and rebellion against God.

(b) Explain what the ripe summer fruit symbolised.

The ripe summer fruit symbolized the end of Israel's time for repentance and the certainty of divine judgment. Just as ripe fruit is ready to be consumed, Israel was ready for punishment.

(c) Show how the vision is relevant today by giving two points.

It warns societies today about the consequences of moral decay, injustice, and disobedience to God's commandments.

It emphasizes that opportunities for repentance are limited, and ignoring God's call leads to irreversible consequences, urging individuals and nations to seek righteousness.

7. Justify the statement, "Prophet Jeremiah encountered constant oppositions, yet he spoke the word of God with uncompromising honesty."

Jeremiah faced rejection from priests, kings, and the general public because his message condemned their sins and warned of impending destruction.

He was accused of being a traitor for predicting Jerusalem's fall to Babylon, yet he remained faithful in delivering God's message.

Jeremiah was imprisoned, beaten, and thrown into a cistern, but none of these sufferings silenced him or made him alter God's word.

Despite the discouragement and loneliness, Jeremiah boldly declared God's message without fear, demonstrating faithfulness and integrity.

His commitment to the truth, regardless of opposition, teaches religious leaders today the value of honesty and courage in confronting social evils.

8. Explain the first five symbolic visions of Prophet Zechariah, and show the implication for each vision.

The vision of the horsemen (Zechariah 1:7-17) showed God's awareness of world affairs and His promise to comfort Jerusalem. It assured the exiles of restoration.

The vision of the four horns and four craftsmen (Zechariah 1:18-21) represented Israel's oppressors and God's agents of deliverance. It promised the defeat of enemies.

The vision of the man with a measuring line (Zechariah 2:1-13) signified the rebuilding of Jerusalem and its future prosperity, encouraging the return of exiles.

The vision of Joshua the high priest (Zechariah 3:1-10) symbolized the cleansing of Israel's sins and the restoration of religious leadership, showing God's forgiveness.

The vision of the golden lampstand and two olive trees (Zechariah 4:1-14) represented the continuous presence of God's Spirit in guiding leaders like Zerubbabel and Joshua. It encouraged reliance on divine power for rebuilding the temple.

9. Analyse the message of God to the five groups of people to whom God sent the son of man (Prophet Ezekiel) to confront with (Ezekiel 12:21-14:23), and its relevance today.

The appropriate analysis of the message of God to the five groups was supposed to be as follows:

To the idol worshippers: The Lord told the son of man to speak against idolatrous people. God wanted His people to be cleansed from idolatry in thoughts as well as in actions. The Lord urged them to repent and turn away from their idols and abominations; otherwise the Lord would punish them. Likewise, today there are idol worshippers. They look like faithful believers, but they secretly consult witch doctors and false gods.

To the false prophets: The Lord was also against the false prophets who prophesied out of their own spirits, and not from the Spirit of God. They were bad guides, spiritually and morally, as they built up false hopes of security among people. God announced punishment to the false prophets. There are also many false prophets today who mislead people of God by prophesying their own ideas for their evil intentions.

To the people with false hopes: God sent Ezekiel to the people with false hopes, those who claimed that God would not destroy Jerusalem as it was prophesied by Ezekiel. The prophet replied that even if some of the righteous people who ever lived were in the city, God would still destroy it; though He would deliver the righteous. Today, like those days, there are some people who rely on false hopes that even if they are sinners God will save them by His mercy. However, Ezekiel's message is that God saves the righteous, for everyone is responsible for his/her own mistakes.

To the skeptics who ignored the prophecies: The Lord condemned the skeptics who claimed that Ezekiel's prophecies, like those of Jeremiah could be ignored as they were of times far off (no fulfilment). The Lord said that his words would not be delayed, but fulfilled. Even today, there are people who ignore the words from the servants of God. God will punish all those who ignore the words from His servants.

To the prophetesses and sorceresses: The Lord sent Ezekiel to the prophetesses and sorceresses who prophesied out of their minds, practiced magic deeds, and protected the evil people. God declared the destruction of their power and release those whom they kept in bondage. Even today, there are people who pretend to serve God, but they practise magic and sorcery, and cause trouble in the society. They should know that God does not allow such practices.