

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

FINAL EXAMINATIONS – JUNE 2007

B.A. RELIGIOUS STUDIES COURSE

PAPER I: THL3000

Saturday 9 June 2007

9.15a.m. – 12.15p.m.

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Choose **one** question from **each section**.  
Use a **SEPARATE** script for **each** question.

Section A

1. The stories in Gen 1-3 provide profound theological insights that have had a great influence on the Jewish and the Christian faiths. They provide the basis for a biblical theology of creation, of the human person, of the relation between the sexes. Discuss.
2. In the foundational episode of the baptism of the Roman Centurion Cornelius, Peter states that "All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name" (Acts 10,43).  
How do the Old Testament Prophetic movement and Paul's missionary activity and teaching show that the ministry of reconciliation forms a fundamental part of the Church's ministry of evangelization?
3. The Temple scene in the beginning of John's Gospel presents in a highly refined form, the Christology of the Fourth Gospel – Jesus as the dwelling-place of God. As this scene develops, it provides a paradigm for a narrative style that employs images and dialogue in a fusion of literary form and theological content. Discuss.

### Section B

4. Epicurus affirms that "man is the measure of all things". How do you understand this statement from the point of view of theology? What do Revelation and Tradition say about the genesis, the perennial exodus and the destiny of human beings?
5. In its exploration of the ways to the knowledge of God, theology encounters the "Christian" God of salvation history. Elaborate.
6. Illustrate how the three biblical images of the Church, namely, People of God, Body of Christ, and Temple of the Holy Spirit, are complementary and give a more comprehensive understanding of what the Church is.

### Section C

7. In faith one is offered the gift and given the task of transforming oneself. Explain the basic features of this self-transformation.
8. 'Live and let live' is a necessary but insufficient principle for our life together. Explain with reference to life in the political and economic spheres.
9. The Second Vatican Council in its Pastoral Constitution (Gaudium et Spes) changed the paradigm of Christian marriage by replacing the idea of contract by that of covenant. Discuss.

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PAPER II: THL3010

Saturday 16 June 2007

9.15a.m. – 12.15p.m.

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Answer any three questions.

Use a **SEPARATE** script for **each** question.

1. Discuss the contribution of Thomas Aquinas to medieval philosophy.
2. Set out and explain in detail any ONE of Aquinas' Five Ways.
3. According to Pope Benedict XVI, "The stopping of medical procedures that are dangerous, extraordinary, or disproportionate, compared to the results you can expect, could be legal and accepted". Discuss in the light of today's claim of one's right to die.
4. If birth and death do not reveal the purpose of human life, what kind of experience could disclose what man is for?
5. Discuss Kant's deontological approach.
6. "The information picked up by our antennae to the world, our senses, is converted into a form that the brain can integrate, compare, store and interpret" (Jillyn Smith, *Senses and Sensibilities*). Discuss.
7. Through language we humans express ourselves, and enter into communication with others. Elaborate.

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PAPER III: THL3020

Saturday 23 June 2007

9.15a.m. – 12.15p.m.

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Answer any three questions.

Use a **SEPARATE** script for **each** question.

1. What is the relationship between catechesis and children's spiritual formation?
2. "It is in the personal relation to the living God, and the personal conscious fellowship of love with Himself, that prayer begins" (Andrew Murray). How does Jesus' experience of prayer help the Christian understand what Christian prayer is?
3. We live in a world that is a secularized yet at the same time very much interested in religion and religious matters. Discuss this statement, with particular reference to the Maltese situation.
4. Explain the basic vision and theology underlining Catholic Youth Ministry by highlighting the catechetical aspect.
5. Pastoral care should be based on the model of Jesus Christ, shepherd and servant. Comment with relevant biblical texts.
6. Discuss the implications of any aspect of media content to a Christian way of living.